

Water All Around the World

Reviewed by Molly Herman-Gallow

Water All Around the World: Snapshot



[Water All Around the World](#) is a curriculum that focuses on water, and it teaches about the countries that might not have access to clean water. Through mission stories, discussions, scripture, and crafts, children learn of the value of clean water and how children and their families near and far struggle to gain access to this essential resource. It highlights the importance of mission work in a church context and is an adaptable curriculum that can be applied in many contexts beyond the traditional five-day VBS experience. It is also a curriculum that can apply to any age at any stage in life, from children to youth to adults.

Water All Around the World: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Join[ing] God’s mission to restore the ‘goodness’ of God’s creation”
- **Publisher & date:** [Living Waters for the World](#), 2016 ([Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** preschool, grades K – 5, with intergenerational options
- **Format:** onsite (a free at-home version is also available for families)
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** music, mission stories, recreational activities, snacks, art
- **Cost:** \$85
- **Video:** <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/vbs>

Water All Around the World: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Water Is Necessary to Life**
Children in Guatemala
- **Day 2: Water Is Sometimes Very Scarce**
Children in Cuba
- **Day 3: Water Can Be Dangerous**
Children in Mexico
- **Day 4: Water Is a Sign of Grace**
Children in Haiti
- **Day 5: Jesus Gives Us Living Water**
Children in Ghana

Water All Around the World: Where It Shines

Extreme focus on mission and service to others

The entirety of this curriculum is focused on teaching children about those who live around the globe. It takes them outside of their own contexts to teach them about our global neighbors and partners. It introduces children to what it means to be global stewards of the Earth and educates them on the water crisis around the world that they might not otherwise be prompted to think about.

Easy to implement and affordable

This is an easy curriculum to follow and execute. It includes all you need in the simple curriculum that you can purchase or download digitally. Everything included utilizes what is either already provided by the curriculum or what you might already have on hand in terms of art project supplies, etc. It is also very affordable, yet the affordable price doesn't deter from the overall originality and richness of the content.

Water All Around the World: Where It Shines

Music in additional languages

This curriculum introduces the beauty of language and how it can connect all of us. Children have the chance to learn songs in the native tongues of those about whom they're learning in the mission stories. It provides a chance to learn something new during the day and apply it to their own lives if they were to ever meet someone from a country they studied that is included in this curriculum.

Freedom in exploration and wondering

Children have the freedom to openly explore and wonder alongside fellow peers during small group discussion questions and throughout the day. There is no assumption that they need to think certain things along certain lines. This curriculum emphasizes an open and honest approach for children to bring their questions and ponderings to the table and have them be met with equal engagement about the curriculum facilitators.

Water All Around the World: What We Miss

Activities that appeal across ages

Though this curriculum is super simple and easy to follow, there isn't a lot by way of a variety of activities for various age groups. Most of the activities included such as the arts crafts and recreational activities are best suited for a younger audience. Due to this, older ages might feel a bit less engaged or left out.

More robust theological messaging

Though this VBS is rooted in a firm and grounded theme and theology, it doesn't include a lot of opportunity to be grounded in scripture. A Bible story is presented, but not much else is included except the story itself and a few discussion questions. The relationship between us and God is alluded to and even touched on when reflecting on the Bible story, but much of the content addresses the needs of those who are from each country that is the focus of the day. If anything, this curriculum does a good job of spotlighting the fact that water is a key component of the Bible and plays an active part in how God serves and loves us.

**Water All
Around the
World:
Overall
Assessment**

**A flexible and
engaging
curriculum that
emphasizes
serving others
and learning
about our global
communities**