WATER IS LIFE!

OPENING SONG

I've got peace like a river
(make river actions)
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul
(touch the sole of your shoe)

Verse 2.
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

Verse 3.
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul
(stand like a funny statue in a fountain)

Verse 4.
I've got peace, love, joy like a river,
 ocean, fountain.

(Song link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2rf4D6qhaD8)

SHARING CIRCLE

- Look at the globe. Ask the children where the rivers, mountains, oceans and their own country and town are. Show them how much is water.

- Pass around the glass of salty water and point out that the ocean areas are salty. Pass around the glass of fresh water and explain that rivers and lakes are fresh – point them out on the globe or map. Get them to tell you how much salty water and how much fresh water there is on the earth.

Explain that water is very precious and in many places it is very scarce. Although there are many oceans and seas covering our Earth, we have to remember that all that water is salt water, not freshwater. Only a very small amount of all the water that we find on Earth is freshwater, which we can drink.

Show the children how little freshwater there is on the planet for our daily needs.

Fill a plastic cup/teacup with water (200 millilitres) – this represents all the water on Earth.
Now take out less than half a teaspoon (1.5 ml) – these few drops of water represent the amount of freshwater available for use by all the people, animals and plants on the Earth! About 97% of all water on earth is salt water in our oceans, and only 3% is freshwater.

BIBLE READING

Psalm 104:1-14 (The Message version)

O my soul, bless GOD!
GOD, my God, how great you are!
beautifully, gloriously robed,
Dressed up in sunshine,
and all heaven stretched out for your tent.
You built your palace on the ocean deeps,
made a chariot out of clouds and took off on wind-wings.
You commandeered winds as messengers,
appointed fire and flame as ambassadors.
You set earth on a firm foundation
so that nothing can shake it, ever.
You blanketed earth with ocean,
covered the mountains with deep waters;

Then you roared and the water ran away—
your thunder crash put it to flight.
Mountains pushed up, valleys spread out
in the places you assigned them.
You set boundaries between earth and sea;
never again will earth be flooded.
You started the springs and rivers,
sent them flowing among the hills.
All the wild animals now drink their fill,
wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Along the riverbanks the birds build nests,
ravens make their voices heard.
You water the mountains from your heavenly cisterns;
earth is supplied with plenty of water.
You make grass grow for the livestock,
hay for the animals that plow the ground.
Tiddalik, the greedy frog
(Australia)

Once upon a time there lived a big frog called Tiddalik. Tiddalik, the frog was thirsty. Because he was so big and so thirsty, he started to drink the rain which fell from the sky. He just opened his mouth as wide as he could. He was still very thirsty he looked at the pools, the rivers the stream. He wanted more and more water. Even when he was full, he kept on drinking and drinking. Every last drop of sweet fresh water on earth was drunk by Tiddalik. He became a very big frog; as big as a mountain. When he walked he crushed trees and plants under his enormous webbed feet.

The animals began to notice that something strange was happening. The plants and the trees were dying of thirst. The drought was killing everything and the animals were beginning to starve. But Tiddalik was growing bigger and bigger.

The animals called a meeting to discuss what they could do. Some said that Tiddalik was far too big and powerful, he would never give the water back. Others said that it was all just too terrible and they wanted to give up and die.

Then a wise owl spoke. He took a step forward into the circle of animals and said, “I have an idea. We must go to Tiddalik and persuade him to give our water back.” The animals agreed with owl. This was a good idea. They could try to make Tiddalik give the water back. But he was such a bad-tempered frog that they were scared.

They went to the place where Tiddalik lived. He didn’t even look at the animals, he just sat with his huge swollen stomach. First the Lion roared – “Give us back our water.” And all the animals said, “Please, Tiddalik, we are so thirsty. Please give us our water back.” [The children repeat after you.]

But Tiddalik was so huge that he just looked down his nose at lion. He wasn’t afraid of him.

The rabbit came up and said, “Please, Mister Tiddalik, we are so hungry and thirsty all the plants have died.” And all the animals said, “Please, Tiddalik, we are so thirsty. Please give us our water back.” [The children repeat after you.] but Tiddalik just turned his head away.

The porcupine came up and said, “Give us back our water or I will poke you with my spines.” And all the animals said, “Please, Tiddalik, we are so thirsty. Please give us our water back.” [The children repeat after you.]

But Tiddalik just looked down from his huge height and said nothing. He wasn’t afraid of those tiny little spines.

And then the chimpanzee came up, and he didn’t say anything at all, he began a dance. He danced like a crazy monkey and made funny faces [ask children to do the same]. And far away up at the corner of his mouth, Tiddalik’s lip began to tremble. The chimpanzee stood on his head and waved his toes and Tiddalik’s eyes began to gleam with pleasure. He held his belly for he did not want to laugh. And then suddenly he was laughing, “Ho, ho, ho,” and as he laughed, all the waters of the world gushed out. Big streams of clear beautiful water. The rivers filled up, the water trickled into the soil and the plants began to grow again and the animals were happy.

What do you think about Tiddalik? When he took too much water, what happened to the other animals?
Water is free – right? Well, that’s been our attitude for so long that we think nothing of taking long showers, watering our lawns, washing our cars with a hose pipe, leaving the tap running etc. But in many places clean water is becoming scarce and expensive. Imagine not having enough water to drink, or having to worry about deadly diseases in your water supply. Those are problems many people face.

Our rivers and lakes and underground water are being polluted by rubbish and by poisonous chemicals that are being dumped into them, from factories, and from mines. We also need a lot of water to grow our food. If we are greedy like Tiddalik with water there will not be enough for others and the environment.

What happened to the water that gushed out of Tiddalik when he laughed? Some flowed on the surface like a river, but some ran into the soil and disappeared. Where did it go?
The water that moves underground in between the sand grains and cracks in the rocks moves sloooowly and is called groundwater. We cannot see it like the water in the rivers and oceans. It is part of the water cycle and it is everywhere under our feet, it feeds our trees and it can bubble to the surface as springs. We can use it from a wellpoint or a borehole, which is like a straw pumping it from underground. Even though we can’t see it, groundwater really is there under the ground. Just like God is invisible to our eyes, groundwater is too, but we just KNOW that they are there.
Discover water Olympics outside

Divide the children into teams: each team has a cup and a bucket of water. They must carry a cup full of water to the other finish line where there is another bucket. Whoever fills the bucket first wins.

Discuss how much water gets split and how important water is.

Build a groundwater model in a cup

Fill the cups just over half with loose, dry sand. Slowly pour some water on top of the sand, just enough that it gets wet to the top of the sand...

What happens to the water? Is it now gone? Can we get it out from the sand again?

Take a straw and carefully suck on it.

Do you get any water up the straw?

This is exactly the same way a borehole works when we put a pump in it to get the groundwater out from underground.

Fill a cup/s with twice as much water as the first time.

What happens now? Does all the water infiltrate into the sand?

This is what happens when it rains a lot and the sand gets filled up with water and then wetlands and flooding occurs.

Take a straw and suck again.

What happens to the water now?

That is why you see water in the Cape Flats in wetlands over winter, but not in summer.

Draw ing/colouring time

Discuss what humans have done to waste or make water dirty.

The children draw pictures of a dirty river.

Ask them to take them home and talk to their family about keeping rivers clean.

Colouring of groundwater picture/water cycle/wordsearch

This is a windpump that pumps groundwater to the surface, for animals and people to drink or to water vegetables and trees.

Give it some colour!

Water wordsearch

G F B C Z H O L Y W A T E R F B
D K J H L G M D A M N T H G C
H M L N N F W R J U D I R K Z
O B R I K T S I J F S D H F L
M K R V Z P O N B Y G D V B G
G P S I Y B W K R T N A L C N
S F U J V L C J R L A L M B J
F T B H D E K Z B D E I G N D
C Z N M I W R F M H C K S N T
B J L G T B R H C T O W A F D
U U D F M H N U Y K G L V Z B
C R G R O U N D W A T E R T M
K D F Z J U T G S E V F C H J
E I C B L D K R W F O R A I N
T K H G M N Z F L J B C D G F

Try and find the following words:

Rain Bucket Groundwater Spring
River Ocean Tiddalik Drink
Dam Wetland Clouds Holy water
Stand in a circle and hold the edges of the blue and green cloths, move them up and down like waves, have the children move around to experience the movement of the ocean or a river. Ask the children to talk about the times they haven’t been very careful with water. Say a closing prayer saying sorry to God for wasting the precious gift of water.

For in the end, we will conserve only what we love, We will love only what we understand And we will understand only what we are taught.

– Baba Dioum