

UZIMA

THE GIFT OF A HANDWASHING STATION



HANDWASHING BY THE NUMBERS

- IF YOU GOOGLE THE WORD "HANDWASHING," YOU GET 6.7 MILLION HITS!
- THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION RECOMMENDS WASHING YOUR HANDS FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO SING HAPPY BIRTHDAY TWO TIMES
- THE AVERAGE PERSON WASHES THEIR HANDS 6 TIMES A DAY -- ABOUT 12 HOURS OF HANDWASHING IN A LIFETIME!

A SIMPLE SUPER-WEAPON

You probably do it every day and don't even think about it. Maybe you wonder WHY the adults make such a fuss about it. **Handwashing.**

We're sort of used to sinks and running water and soap and hand sanitizer and signs reminding us to wash, well, *everywhere!*

But did you know that handwashing wasn't always a habit? The idea of germs was first proposed in 1546 but it wasn't until the 19th century that handwashing was suggested as a means of preventing disease and infection. And it wasn't even until the late 20th century that governments began campaigns to promote it.

World Renew works in the rural areas of countries like Guatemala, Kenya, and Uganda, where running water is often not available and people there may not yet understand the connection between handwashing and good health. Adults and children get sick and miss a lot of work and school and, sadly, many people still die of illnesses that could be prevented by a very simple tool: **the handwashing station.**

So World Renew teaches people about the importance of handwashing and shows them how to build a station using simple materials like sticks and rope and a water can.

It can take a while for people to make the connection between their handwashing and improved health (that's why all our bathrooms have reminder signs!) so World Renew staff hold classes and workshops to promote health by handwashing. **Because healthier people live more abundant lives and THAT is exactly what God wants for all His children.**



HANDWASHING COULD PREVENT THE DEATHS OF 1.2 MILLION CHILDREN EVERY YEAR.



MANY HANDS MAKE HANDS CLEANER!

Only \$25 to prevent disease? Your kids are going to tackle this challenge no problem. How about two?!

However your kids decide to raise money for handwashing stations, a great way for them to publicize their project is with a **punchy visual**. What if everyone agreed to wear latex gloves or face masks for a day to call attention to the need for germ prevention? Youth groups could make a strong statement while taking their collection on Sunday morning.

If your kids are crafty or entrepreneurially-minded, a **soap sale** might spark their giving gumption. Crafty kids will love the fun of mixing glycerin and colors into wacky shapes (the PBS website has a simple recipe) and kids more interested in the business side of things can find small, beautifully-wrapped soaps online and ready for resale.

For more ideas, visit www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas



If you're looking for a lesson plan, google "**Classroom Activity Disease Transmission**" and click on the first result, a PDF from the Saskatchewan Science Center with 3 short games and one longer lesson.

Want some hands-on, kinetic learning? Have your student **build a handwashing station** for the school playground. They're simple to make and instructions abound online.

WASH ME!

We are blessed to live in a time and place where we understand the importance of handwashing and have everything we need to do it. That our children are not dying of preventable diseases every day is a privilege.

But the scientific and hygienic importance of washing hands can prevent us from remembering that **the washing of hands has a long history of ritual and symbolism**, present ages before Florence Nightingale and Louis Pasteur made their claims about germs and disease.

The idea of washing one's hands in order to be ritually pure is present throughout Scripture, its most famous example found in Matthew 27:24 when

Pontius Pilate rejects any responsibility for Jesus' death by washing his hands with water in front of an angry crowd (this is, in fact, where the common phrase "to wash one's hands" of something originates).

Judaism's ritual washing of hands to show pureness takes on glorious meaning in the New Testament with verse after verse about our actual cleansing through Christ as in verse 9 from 1 John 1:

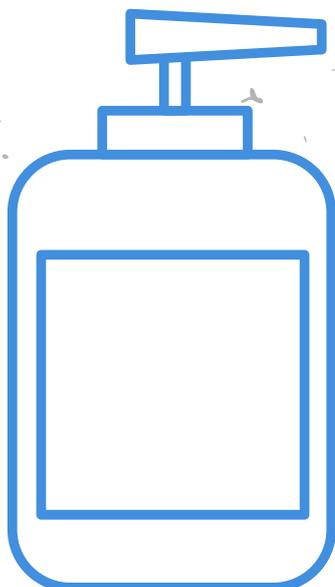
"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."

Perhaps, while celebrating the health that handwashing brings us, we can also look on it as **more than a health habit, but a ritual and reminder** that, in Christ, we have been made clean, that in Him we have been given abundant life.

"HANDY" EXTRAS

Looking for something to add to a lesson about washing your hands? Germs aren't exactly groovy, but these might catch your students' interest:

For little ones, **Sick Simon** by Dan Krall has enough "gross" factor to keep the kids laughing while listening (and learning about the role germs play in making us sick).



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