

# 9 SUNDAY SCHOOL IDEAS For Youth and Young Children

## 1. The Map and Kidney Bean Exercise

Draw the outline of the Pikangikum region (use Google Earth/maps) on a firm poster board. Have the children paint the water and the land.

Draw in roads (you need not have these as accurate as in fact the houses in the area are quite spread out)

Count 450 chickpeas and put them in a smallish clear glass jar.  
Remove 35 and then count in 35 KIDNEY BEANS



Show the jar to the children:

Explain that the chickpeas represent homes that do not have running water at all....There may be sinks in their kitchens...but no taps....why?

Because the community does not have a system like we have at home...People have to go and collect water...or they have big tanks in their homes that they have to keep refilling.



The KIDNEY BEANS are the houses that have been “modernized”...and have minimal running water.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAY THAT ALL THE WATER USED TO COOK OR TO DRINK MUST BE BOILED FIRST TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO GERMS.

Have the children glue the chickpeas and kidney beans on to the map....

Have the children SHARE and EXPLAIN the work to the congregation.

## 2. What Cup Are You Drinking from Today?

Talk about God’s loving gift of clean water...discuss the importance of “clean water” versus “polluted water”... Pour fresh water...water with salt...water with toothpaste etc...ask which one they want to drink etc. Speak about “**The Golden Rule**”. Talk about how we can “pollute” relationships too.



Have the children write down “good behaviour actions/feelings” and “negative” ones....or do it yourself.

If many little non-readers have the “good” words in green and the “negative” words in red...have an older reader help the little ones decide which “cup” they should glue the words into....

.and sometimes how we treat each other “pollutes” relationships.

Ask....**What Cup are You Drinking from Today?**

### **3. GIFT IDEAS**

Have the children make a gift for your PWRDF Sunday ....something simple and waterproof they can wear on their wrist such as elastic band art.

Ask the adults to wear it for a day and to pay attention to how they interact with water....and how difficult it might be not to have easy access to water.

Distribute elastic bands and ask the adults to attach them to taps in their homes to help them become aware of the gift we have and what others do not.

### **4. Read Higgins: A Drop with Dream (on following page)**

Ask the children what Jesus would think of Higgins.



### **5. Talk about WATER as something SACRED**

In our Sunday school group I showed a picture with the words “Drink Something Sacred”....one child read this as s-c-a-r-e-d....

Talk about how you might feel scared if you had no good water to drink.

### **6. Pikangikum Canada Lives Here - Forever Young**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyqrzqhEHL4> - **Robert Morgan**

Watch the “Pikangikum Canada Lives Here” video with your Sunday School children. Have the children “make up” names for the children they see on the screen.

Then write your names on hearts or on some craft art paper cut into a seasonal shape and add the “made up” names.

Give the hearts (or whatever shape you have chosen) to members of the congregation and ask them to pray for both “your” children and those they have “Christened”.

### **7. God Created Water and YOU!**

- Pour water into a clear vase (Preferably a cylinder)
- Pour a ¼ inch of oil on top and let it settle.
- Drop one drop at a time of different coloured food dye into the oil. (it will stay suspended in the oil)
- Pierce the food dye “bubble” with a toothpick and watch the dye drift beautifully into the water...
- Talk about this being the real you that God created...the “you” that is your deep link to God...

### **8. A bit of research.**

Have the Sunday School review the material in this informational bulletin insert.

### **9. Watch a presentation.**

Youth may choose to lead a discussion after presenting Dave Steeves’ Powerpoint to the congregation:

[https://pwrdf.org/uploads/381/pikangikum5\[1\].ppt](https://pwrdf.org/uploads/381/pikangikum5[1].ppt)

# HIGGINS: A DROP WITH A DREAM

By Christopher Buice

Once upon a time there was a drop of water named Higgins.

Higgins was no ordinary drop of water. He was a drop with a dream.

Higgins lived in a valley where it had not rained in a very long time, so all the lovely green grass was turning brown, all the beautiful flowers were wilting, and all the trees were starting to droop.

Higgins had a dream that one day the valley would be a beautiful place again. But what could he do? After all, he was only a drop of water.

One day Higgins decided to travel and tell others about his dream. All the other drops listened very politely, but no one believed that his dream would come true. "Higgins," said one, "get your head out of the clouds. You can't spend your whole life dreaming."

Higgins decided that he had to do something to make his dream come true. So he began to think and think and think. One day, as he was walking by a rusty old bucket, he got an idea.

"If enough of us drops of water got together in this bucket," Higgins thought, "there would be enough water to sprinkle on a few flowers to help them grow and become beautiful again!"

Eagerly, Higgins told everyone his great idea. But everyone thought he was being foolish. "That Higgins is nothing but a dreamer," they said.

Higgins decided he had to do something to convince the others that he was right. So he said to them, "I don't know about you, but I'm getting into the bucket! I hope some of you will join me. Then there might be enough water to help at least some flowers grow beautiful again."

So Higgins ran as hard as he could, hopped way up in the air, and landed with a kerplunk in the bottom of the bucket.

And there he sat . . . JUST A DROP IN THE BUCKET.

For a long time Higgins was very lonely. It seemed like no one else was going to join him. But after awhile some of the other drops could see that the grass was dying and the flowers were wilting and the trees were drooping. They all agreed that something must be done.

Suddenly, one drop shouted, "I'm going in the bucket with Higgins!" And he leaped through the air and landed—kerplunk—in the bucket.

Then two other drops yelled, "Wait for us!" And they hopped through the air and landed in the bucket. Then ten drops jumped through the air into the bucket. Then thirty. Then fifty! And then hundreds of drops came from all around just to hop in the bucket!

Soon, the bucket was completely full of water. But there were still more drops that wanted to join, so they found another bucket and hopped in. Before long, there were two buckets of water—then three—then four—then ten—and then hundreds—and then thousands of buckets of water!

Along came a powerful breeze that blew over all the buckets, and all the water flowed together to make a mighty stream. Everywhere the water flowed, the grass turned green again and the flowers bloomed and the trees stood tall and straight once more.

All this happened because Higgins had a dream and his dream came true. Because he knew that although he was just a drop in the bucket, enough drops in the bucket make a bucketful, and when there are enough buckets with the wind behind them, then justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

*Permission granted by The Rev. Chris Buice of the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.*