

Read the story to your child/children and then ask the questions (right). Follow up with the “What Can You Do?” steps.

In America, water is easy to find. It flows from the kitchen faucet to help us cook food and clean dishes. In the bathroom, water helps us bathe and brush our teeth. We keep bottles of it in our refrigerators. The water is clean and good to drink.

In some places, like South Asia or Africa, water is harder to find. You might have to walk miles with a big jar to collect it out of a pond. Then you have to boil it to make sure it is clean.

One family has a young elephant named Wella. She is such a good friend to the family. While the mom and dad work, Wella helps the children carry their water jars on long trips every day to and from a pond. But the trip is difficult. And the children are not able to go to school, because they must collect water for their family to live.

One day, a missionary at Set Free Alliance came to the village where the family and Wella live. A missionary is a person who is called by God to go and tell people about Jesus. The missionary was kind and wanted to help people in the village. The missionary saw that not having water made life hard for the people. He asked for help from other Christians who support Set Free Alliance’s mission to serve others in the name of Jesus. Together, they raised money to drill a well for the village. A well is a deep hole made in the ground to reach water.

Digging the well was hard work. There was noisy equipment. Wella’s big ears got tired from all the noise! But when the well was finished, Wella and her family didn’t have to make long trips for water anymore. They could stay in their village to collect water. This meant the children could now go to school. They could learn how to read and write!

The family’s dad asked the missionary why he and the other Christians helped their village construct a well. The missionary told them it was because he cared about them. He said that Jesus cares about them, too. In fact, Jesus loves them! The missionary told the dad that Jesus loves the people in that village so much that He died on a cross and rose after three days so they could have their sins—the wrong things they have done—forgiven. This means that when they believe in Jesus they can live at peace with God. Wella happily swayed her trunk as the family realized the missionary had given them two great gifts: clean water *and* the good news about Jesus!

What Can You Do?

- Pray for missionaries who are bringing water and the good news about Jesus to villages.
- Use a clean, empty water bottle to collect money. Once the bottle is full, donate the money to the [Pure Water, Pure Love Fund](http://www.purewater.org) (www.purewater.org).
- Tell someone you know the good news that Jesus loves them so much!

1. Where did Wella and her family walk every day? (*to a pond to get water*)
2. Why did the children not go to school? (*they had to get water for their family to live*)
3. What did the missionary notice about the village? (*not having water made life hard for the people*)
4. Who did the missionary ask for help to drill a well? (*other Christians*)
5. What happened when the village had a well? (*the children could go to school*)
6. What two gifts did the family realize the missionary gave them? (*clean water and the good news about Jesus*)

