

A well without a bucket

You will need

A small bucket – the type you use on the beach
Some water in a container large enough to take the bucket
Some string

Introduction

Talk about wells and explain that they are deep holes in the ground, as there is often water under the ground, a long way down. Ask if any pupils have seen a wishing well or real water well. To reach the water, people dig and dig until they come to it. When the well is deep enough, a bucket is put on a chain or rope and this is lowered down until it hits the water at the bottom. The bucket fills with water, and then there is the tiring job of pulling it up again. Think how much water you use. Think how tiring it would be to have to go to a well every time you need some water, but that is what many people had to do in Britain before we had taps.

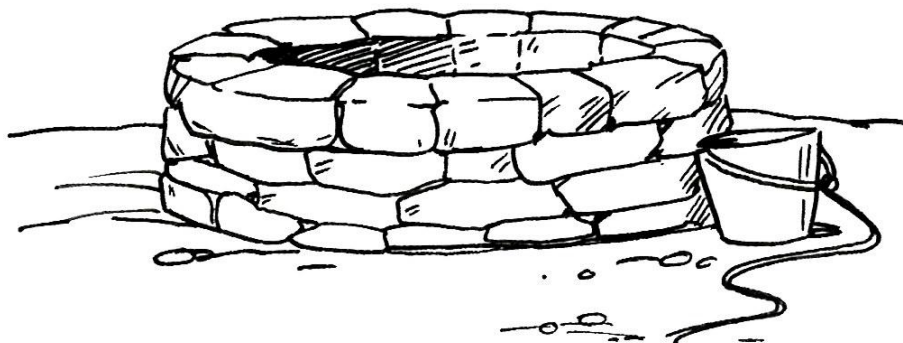
We need water for many things. Ask pupils to list some of the things for which we need water.

Explain that you cannot dig a hole in the floor to demonstrate a well, so you are going to use a container of water and a bucket. Demonstrate how you would get water from the container into the bucket by lowering the bucket into the water then lifting it out. Ask pupils to help in this.

Core material

Long ago (about 500 years ago), the Bible was not in English (or Welsh or Gaelic) and ordinary people could not read it. One person said that having the Bible but not being able to read it in your own language was like standing by a well with no bucket. The water was there, but you could not get it. This picture language tells us something about how people thought about the Bible.

Just as we need water for our daily lives so, for Christians, the Bible is a part of daily life; it helps



them in their friendship with God and with living as a Christian. Not being able to read the Bible was like having a well but no bucket. Think how annoying that would be. People really wanted water; people really needed water and were upset when they could not get it. At the time, many people were upset that they could not read the Bible in English. This need for the Bible in English started a process that ended in a very special Bible, and that is what our assemblies are about this week.

Prayer/Reflection

Pour some water from the bucket into the container while pupils think of what life would be like without taps. That is what Christians feel life is like without the Bible, it is that important to them.

Father, we thank you for all those people long ago who made sure that we could read the Bible in English (and other languages of the British Isles). We thank you for the modern translators who do the same work today, translating the Bible into different languages. Amen.

