



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Flow: How Did a Handful of Corporations Steal Our Water? **2008 (84 minutes)**

Flow discusses the “blue gold” known as water—a precious necessity of life that most people in the United States take for granted. The film investigates the water quality of both tap and bottled water, the accessibility/affordability of clean water in developing countries like Bolivia, and local resistance to water privatization efforts.

Questions for Reflection

These questions are intended to be open-ended with no right answer. Allow for thoughtful silences and encourage friendly dialogue. The questions are in no particular order; select those that seem most relevant to the group (feel free to add your own, too!).

- 1) Who owns water? Would you consider access to clean water a basic human right? Why or why not?
- 2) In the U.S., many of us take safe water for granted. Have you ever considered how much water you used? What about if you had to carry every drop of water you used into your house from a distant source?
- 3) Did this film challenge any of your assumptions about the bottled water industry? What about the residential water industry? Should public services like water be privatized? Why or why not?
- 4) What risks are we taking when public health interests intersect with the corporate world? Do corporations prioritize stockholder gains over public interest? What is the government's role in overseeing corporations to protect the public?
- 5) Did any stories or examples in the film seem oversimplified or unreasonably generalized?
- 6) What do you think about the water corporation's claims that they are helping impoverished countries by providing clean, safe water?
- 7) What creative ways have you found to conserve water? Is water conservation a priority for you? Why or why not?
- 8) How are water issues related to world hunger? Poverty?
- 9) Do you have favorite Bible verses related to water? Does it somehow speak to any of the issues raised in the film?

Other Resources

If this film and the issue of water grabbed your interest, you may want to check out the following resources:

Water resources from ELCA World Hunger are available at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/ELCA-World-Hunger/Resources/Water-Resources.aspx>.

Host a water education event at your church—order the water trunk show from ELCA World Hunger. Learn more at www.elca.org/hunger/education.

Church World Service, Water for All Campaign

http://www.churchworldservice.org/site/PageServer?pagename=action_what_water_main.