



Community Events

Want to engage your community in the Overflow Challenge and help others to move toward lasting change? Host one or more of these events!

Throughout the Challenge

Art Display

Visuals provide an immediate and enduring impact. As a community, find a space to display art portraying the struggles and solutions to the water crisis and/or the issues surrounding materialism. The art can be any medium and could be displayed at a coffee shop, a library, a church or any other public venue willing to host the gallery. Providing take-home information or displaying descriptions next to the art will help educate the community on water issues. As more people become aware, more people will get involved!

Book Club

Part of lasting change is digging deeper. A book club provides an opportunity to read new, thought-provoking information on global poverty and/or simplicity. See our suggested books list for ideas of what to read. Promote your book club through your local church or library to gain more readers, or host it virtually on social media to engage a greater audience.

Prayer Space

If your church is participating in the Overflow Challenge, a prayer space provides an opportunity to focus on worldwide water issues, as well as, the struggles of materialism and consumerism. Whether it's a wall or a room, provide places for people to pray privately and collectively and for people to write and share their prayers. It may also be useful to provide some guides - specific needs, requests, verses, etc - for prayer. The contemplative space will help people change their perspective and grow in compassion.

Beginning of Challenge

Simplify Sunday

Change is often difficult. That's why community is so important. Taking the Overflow Challenge as a community provides an opportunity to share the challenge and support each other. Participants could write down their commitments to simplify and put them on display, helping to motivate each other and inspiring others to join in. An event kick-off to the challenge can help gain participants and educate those already committed. This should be an exciting launch into 50 days of a different way of living!

Mid-Challenge

Water Walk

Identify a local water source - a pond, lake, river, etc. - and host a water walk! Provide empty containers and a route for participants to walk to the water source. Along the route, share information and stories either visually or verbally about people's plight to get clean water around the world. Have participants fill up their containers and carry them back along the route, allowing them to experience first-hand the time-consuming and physically demanding task of fetching clean water.

Family Night

Providing an opportunity for hands-on learning for all ages is an important part of engaging your whole community in the Overflow Challenge. A Family Night could have multiple stations with opportunities to learn about the water crisis and materialism first-hand.

Here are a few station ideas:

- Have a water relay using small containers and racing to fill a larger one. Use small cups to fill up a large water bottle to indicate the work of getting drinking water.
- Make a piggy bank. This can be done using mason jars or recycled coffee containers. It's a great take-away to allow kids to collect change throughout the challenge to donate to the cause.
- Make some rice and beans. Most of the world's population lives on a diet of mostly rice and beans. Allow kids to help cook or offer it as a snack.
- Have a water walk as part of the family night. (See above.)
- Allow kids to wash clothes in a kiddie pool. This will be fun for the kids, but also a reminder of the ease of our daily lives.
- Set up a globe or world map to allow kids to find the community that will benefit from this Overflow Challenge. If possible, add other cultural elements - instruments, clothes, language, food.
- Set Up a display of how much water is used for daily activities. Find statistics here: <http://fi.edu/guide/schutte/howmuch.html>.

- If a computer or laptop is available, allow kids to play interactive games on water here: <http://wateruseitwisely.com/kids/> or share these videos to start conversations about our stuff: <http://pbskids.org/loopscoops/>.
- Make a homemade TippyTap (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qdpd3roZjYw>) for washing hands and discussing hygiene.
- Have a station where kids can donate or swap toys or clothes instead of buying something new.
- Set up a space for kids to write and share prayers for the people suffering because of the water crisis and for the people seeking to fix it.

Film Night

Films often stay with people and have a moving, powerful impact. That impact is a vital starting point to change. Find a venue; select a film (see our list of film recommendations for what to watch); and promote your event throughout your community. You could have a panel of people available to answer questions at the end, or you could have discussion questions to engage the audience. Either way, it's an opportunity to cultivate meaningful conversation around these important topics.

End of Challenge

Overflow Sunday

At the end of the Overflow Challenge, it's important to celebrate all that we've accomplished together! Gather together to share stories of simplifying, discuss the ways we've changed, and remind each other to give generously as a capstone to the challenge. Providing an opportunity to share the ways the challenge has changed us allows the change to take root and remain. Take the time to celebrate the inspiring difference we've made together!