

# The Missionary's Clean Water Conundrum escape room

## Generic directions, answer key and reflection/discussion questions

By Kathy Applebee. Can you stop a tragedy in a diseased village in Haiti?

Recommended target audience: Upper elementary and up. Ideal Group Size: 6 or more.

Suggested Time: 5-minute introduction (or longer if figuring out water usage), 45-60 minute playing time, 30 or more minutes for reflection.

**STORY:** Former Navy doctor and medical missionary Dr. Barnabas Zaul has been working on a cure for a new disease infecting Haitian villagers. Local witch doctors resent him (and his gospel preaching efforts) as well as his newest venture to help the sick in another village.

You and your team are on a short term mission trip to build a well in his village. Clean water will solve many of the villagers' problems with illness. You arrive to find Dr. Zaul gone and his native assistant frantic to open a locked box in a refrigerator. The assistant hands you a letter and relays a message from Dr. Saul, that should he be delayed, you are to open the box and dispense the meds. The doses of his cure must be given within the hour of your arrival to save lives. Can you crack the codes to get to the cure?

PRIOR to playing and reflecting, you may wish to have each person calculate how much water they use per day <http://www.csgnetwork.com/waterusagecalc.html> or <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/thepowerof10/>

Lock Combinations: What codes will open the locks on the box?

5 letter lock: **Jesus** (maritime signal flags)

4 direction lock: **ESWS** (east, south, west, south. This is solved by comparing letter on legal pad "We went from Baie de Henne to Grand Riveiere du Nord to Kenscoff to Miragoane to cotes-de-Fer" to a map Haiti

4 number lock: doses **2625** (multiplying doses together)

3 number lock: **116** (scripture chapter and verse subtraction and adding - after finding scripture references on "photos" posted in Dr. Zaul's clinic. See chart in answer key to see how it works out)

### Reflection Questions:

1. Which lock was the hardest to unlock? What made it tough?
2. Which of the scripture verses Dr. Zaul had hanging in his clinic speak to you the most? Share why.
3. The villagers needed clean water. About 663 - 884 million people (estimates vary) live and die without access to safe water. Without this clean drinking water, life is very different from places with indoor plumbing and water from a tap. Imagine you are in charge of getting water for your family. If each person needs a minimum of 1 gallon a day to drink, cook and bathe with, how many gallons would you need to provide? Each gallon weighs 8 pound. How much would you have to carry?
4. How many hours/miles a day would you be willing to walk to get water for your family? (some women and children walk long distances, even 6 hours every day, to retrieve dirty water.) The long walks to get any water to drink in some places, force children, mostly girls, to miss school. How does that impact them?
5. The average American uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. Using estimates on the chart from the USGS water school, what would you give up if you only got 10 gallons of water a day? 2 gallons?
6. 7. Girls will walk at night because walking in the daytime can be dangerous. Why might this be? (attacked by animals and/or people). How would life be different for these water carriers if they had clean water in their village?
8. Many children cannot fight off water related diseases which is why dirty water is the top killer of children under 5. World-wide, 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases. In 2017, 6,939 "dirty water" deaths occurred in America. Share your thoughts about these facts.
9. Dr. Zaul's medical log is fictional but based on actual events. If Dr. Zaul were a real person, what might be his motivation to preach and heal? What opposition did he face? What difficulties? How do these relate to difficulties and obstacles you face?
10. Read the account of Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4 and consider what we have just discussed. Do you have any new insights? What does living water mean to you?
11. Read Revelation 7:17, 21:6 and 22:17 {He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ... For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'" ... Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.) and consider these scriptures in light of what we are discussing.