



Leaia's Story (Samoa)

Secondary Case Study
with Learning Activities



TEACHER INFORMATION

The learning tasks follow the 'See, Judge, Act' learning inquiry cycle used in Caritas Australia's education resources. This reflection–action process was first used by a Belgian Catholic priest, Joseph Cardijn (who later became a Cardinal) with Young Christian Workers prior to the first World War. This approach was also recommended in the 1961 encyclical letter written by Pope John XXIII called Mater et Magistra (Mother and Teacher).

See: A story with comprehension questions, activities and a country study

Judge: A Catholic worldview, reflecting on what they have learnt in light of the Catholic faith

Act: Faith in action, including prayer

The document contains hyperlinks within to enable easy access across the different components. They are broken into the following categories:

- **Case Study:** story of the individual, including a link to a video
- **See:** sequence of activities to understand the story and global issues
- **Judge:** sequence of activities to reflect on the issues from a Catholic Worldview
- **Act:** sequence of activities to encourage students to take action
- **Deep Dive:** An interactive Thinglink image designed as a central location for students to access information about the story to complete the activities.



Case Study



See



Judge



Act



Deep-Dive

Learning Intentions

Students will be able to:

- explain Leaia's story
- explain how Caritas Australia supported Leaia and her family
- describe the personal impacts on Leaia and her family
- understand the social and economic context in Samoa.

Success Criteria

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding by:

- completing comprehension tasks
- connecting the story to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- organising and/or reflecting on ways to support people like Leaia and/or the work of Caritas Australia
- - completing a deep dive on the social and economic context in the Samoa.

LEAIA'S STORY (SAMOA)

CASE STUDY



[Watch Leaia's Story](#)

Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia is a mother of five children aged 8 to 13. During the week, Leaia completes daily tasks with her sister Ene, while their husbands work on a cattle farm on the other side of the island. Their husbands come home each weekend to spend time with the family.

In an incredible act of resourcefulness, Leaia's family built their home entirely out of recycled scraps collected from a nearby recycling plant, to avoid wasting precious household income.

Leaia's family only has enough income to pay for her children's food and necessities. Leaia goes to the local shops to buy ingredients and, where she can, harvests fruits from her own garden. The family relies on solar power for lighting and a gas and a wood burner for cooking. Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they used to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges.

When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street. Before being able to rely on her neighbour, she would walk a 40-minute round trip each day with her young children to fetch water in hot, humid conditions. The children would have to take several breaks, as the buckets were very heavy for them to lift.

Continue reading Leaia's story on the next page.

Leaia (right) stands with her family in front of their home which is now connected to a rainwater tank.
Photo: Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia

LEAIA'S STORY (SAMOA)



Leaia explained, **“When it was very hot, there was not much water. It became difficult for me to collect, and this would mean we had very little water, plus it was far. Without water, we can’t do any of our daily activities. We rely heavily on water to live.”**

In recent years, the uncertainty in rainfall has become an increasing worry for Leaia; as a result of climate change, they face longer dry seasons and briefer rainy seasons. She said, **“It makes me feel worried for my family and I, especially my kids, because of the lack of water supply we have access to. We really need the water all the time. It seems like the days are hotter and the weather has become drier than in previous years. Sometimes, we don’t know where to get the water from because where I am, it’s like the taps are becoming dead and dry due to the weather.”**

With the support of Caritas Australia’s local partner Caritas Samoa, a 3,000 litre water tank was installed at Leaia’s home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe in. The time that was previously used to collect drinking water can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly, her children don’t have to miss out on school.

Prior to having the water tank, Leaia’s children would sometimes miss school during the dry season. The school water supply was also unclean.

“If there isn’t enough water, the kids can’t go to school because the water supply at school isn’t clean,” Leaia said.

In rural areas of Samoa, poverty rates are strongly linked to lower levels of education. Caritas Samoa is installing water tanks in crucial areas of communities, such as schools and family homes, to prevent children from missing out on their right to an education.

During the next phase of the program, Caritas Samoa will work to provide homes like Leaia’s with hygienic toilets connected to septic tanks, which will improve the health of rural communities. This will only be possible with the generosity of Australians supporting Caritas Australia’s partnership with Caritas Samoa.

Leaia remarked, **“I hope this program helps other families in need, like mine. Thank you, Caritas, for the water tank and the opportunity. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier. Thank you for helping my family, we are grateful.”**




TASK 1: COMPREHENSION

- A. What is Leaia's family's main source of water?

- B. What impact is climate change having on Leaia's family's ability to access clean water?

- C. Explain how Caritas Australia and Caritas Samoa have supported Leaia's family.

- D. How does having easy access to clean water help Leaia's children go to school?

- E.  Which [Catholic Social Teachings](#) do you see reflected in Leaia's story?

- F. What have you learnt about access to water that some communities face in the Pacific?

TASK 2: WATER QUIZ

Despite being surrounded by water as an island nation, many families in Samoa don't have reliable access to clean water all year round. Test your knowledge on water around the globe using the [Water Quiz](#).

What fact surprised you the most?

TASK 3: HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU USE in 24 hours?

Measure how much water you use and record below. It is helpful to know how much water is used when flushing the toilet (half and full flush), how many litres per minute your showerhead uses. You could use a bowl under the tap to catch the water you use when washing hands and brushing your teeth. Include water used for cooking and washing dishes. How much water did you drink?

A CATHOLIC WORLDVIEW

Human Dignity

noun

- a belief that every person is made in the image of God and is intrinsically valuable and worthy of respect, simply because they are human
- a quality of being human, independent of ethnicity, creed, gender, sexuality, age or ability
- a reality challenged by poverty, hunger, lack of water and injustice

A. How is human dignity demonstrated in Leaia's story?

B. How is supporting Caritas Australia one way you can uphold the dignity of others?

How marvellously human!

Fratelli Tutti is an encyclical, or open letter, written by Pope Francis asking us to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. We are challenged to turn outwards and think of ourselves as one global family, becoming neighbours to all. *Fratelli Tutti* calls us to put human dignity at the centre.

1. Read paragraph 117 of [Fratelli Tutti](#).

2. What words or phrases stood out to you? Why?

3. How can you be 'marvellously human' and conserve water for the sake of others at school and at home?

FAITH IN ACTION

PRAYER

Write a prayer inspired by Leaila's story.

FASTING

When the rainwater they collected in old fridges ran out, Leaila and her children would need to walk to collect water in containers from a neighbour down the street.

Fast from 'easy' access to clean water. Every time you need to use tap water, such as filling your drink bottle, walk to the furthest tap in your school or home.

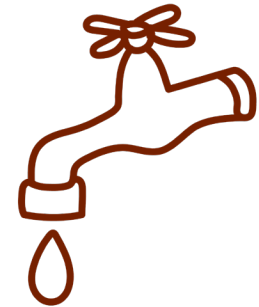
ALMSGIVING

Tapitas

The word 'Tapitas' is just a play on the word 'Caritas' and used to help people consider how their donations can support communities around the world to have ready access to clean water – at the turn of a tap!

How can you support people like Leaila to have access to clean water? HINT: Think beyond financial donations

Remember your refillable water bottle when you are out of the house so you don't need to buy bottles of water.



LEAIA'S STORY

DEEP DIVE



Secondary Deep Dive

Find the matching icons on the Secondary Deep Dive and use your own research to find out the information below.





 <p>What is the population of Samoa? What is the population of Australia?</p>	Samoa:		 <p>The Laudato Si' Goals Identify one or more Laudato Si' goals and explain how they are being addressed through the work of Caritas Australia and its partners.</p>
Australia:			
 <p>Predict life expectancy in Samoa and Australia. Find out the correct answer. Does this surprise you? Why/Why not?</p>	Samoa:	Australia:	
	Prediction:	Prediction:	
 <p>What percentage of the population in the Samoa use safely managed drinking water services?</p>			
 <p>What percentage of the population use safely managed sanitation services?</p>			 <p>The Sustainable Development Goals Select two SDG goals that are relevant to Leaiia's story. Explain the goals you have selected and how they are relevant to the case study.</p>
<p>List 3 ways a lack of reliable access to clean water can affect poverty levels.</p>			

PHOTO CREDITS

Leaia's Story (Samoa) – Laura Womersley/Caritas Australia

STUDENTS

Learning about challenges to the health, wellbeing and safety of others and our earth can be hard. If you are feeling worried or upset about anything you have learnt about through this resource, make sure you talk to your teacher or trusted adult. They can share your concerns via our [website](#).

Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email education@caritas.org.au

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit: caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

Stay up to date with events and resources! Subscribe to [Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter](#).

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

education@caritas.org.au



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