

H₂O

Setting the Stage:

This sketch is designed to be a vignette similar to those presented in the television program School House Rock. It is designed to use science as an entry point for sharing lessons of faith.

Take a moment to scan through a video recording of an old School House Rock as you prepare to recruit children, youth and adults to portray the characters in this skit. The videotapes are available through local video vendors.

Copy the pattern for the water droplet backdrop onto a transparency and use an overhead projector to enlarge it onto poster board or large plastic sheet. Use thick markers or paints to outline the design. Position the backdrop in the center of your stage or make more than one and hang them from a ceiling.

Cast: Three characters: an oxygen atom (O) and two hydrogen atoms (designated H₁ and H₂).

**** Encourage actors to wear matching t-shirts. Trace or copy the "H₂O" costume patterns onto white paper or thin cardstock. Use safety pins to attach the designs to the actors' t-shirts, or, print the patterns in reverse on t-shirt transfer paper and iron on the design. Follow directions on the package precisely for best results.**

Script:

(All three characters enter and stand in the center of the stage – with a hydrogen atom on either side of the oxygen atom.)

O: I am an oxygen atom. I am so tiny you cannot see me, but this room is filled with other oxygen atoms like me. We oxygen atoms like to travel in pairs, as oxygen gas molecules. Oxygen makes up 21% of the clean air you breathe. Oxygen is the most common element on earth.

H₁: I am a hydrogen atom.

H₂: Me too!

H₁: I am so tiny you cannot see me.

H₂: Me too!

H₁: Hydrogen is the most common element in the *universe*.

O: I am made up of tiny, tiny parts. In my nucleus, or center, I have eight protons and eight neutrons. I also have eight tiny parts called electrons. I have two electrons in my first shell, and six in my outer shell.

H₁: I have just one proton in my nucleus. I have just one shell, with just one electron.

H₂: Me too!

O: I am an oxygen atom.

H₁: I am a hydrogen atom.

H₂: Me too!

(The three "atoms" hold hands for the rest of the skit, with Oxygen standing in between H₁ and H₂.)

ALL: We are a water molecule. We are so tiny you cannot see us, but this world is filled with water molecules just like us.

O: We are in the water you drink.

H₁: We are in the steam you see when you take a hot shower.

H₂: (Shivering) We are in ice cubes.

O: I have six electrons in my outer shell, but I'd like to have eight. And that can happen when I'm with you guys because when you share your electrons with me, we become a water molecule! Thanks guys!

H₁ & H₂: You're welcome!

O: Today, water covers much of the earth—about 70% of it. We were in the water that God's Spirit moved over when the heavens and the earth were created.

H₁: We were in the pillar of cloud that led God's people out of Egypt.

H₂: We were in the raindrops that brought the flood from which God protected Noah and his family.

H₁: We were in the river when Jesus was baptized.

O: We were in the water when *you* were baptized in the name of the Father.

H₁: And of the Son.

H₂: And of the Holy Spirit.

O: In baptism, your sins were forgiven.

H₁: You were redeemed from death and the devil.

O: You were given eternal salvation.

H₂: (in a perplexed tone) Wow! How can water molecules like us do such awesome stuff? I mean, it all sounds so big and we are so small!

O: Mr. Martin Luther wrote, "Clearly the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with, in, and among the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water."ⁱ

H₂: I feel so much better!

H₁: "...Without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God, it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a 'bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit.'"ⁱⁱ

H₂: Cool!

O: The atoms of a water molecule are bound together by a covalent bond, a strong bond that is not easily broken.

H₁: In the waters of baptism, you are joined to other Christians across time and space. We call that, the communion of saints.

H₂: The people of God are connected together with a bond that is not easily broken too.

O: Because of that bond, God's people join together in worship.

H₁: Because of that bond, God's people pray the Lord's Prayer together

H₂: The prayer heard round the world?!

O: Yes! And...because of that bond, God's people, or, the communion of saints, confess the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds.

H₂: And don't God's people know and follow the Ten Commandments too?

H₁: Yes, they are found in the Holy Scriptures and we can also find them in Mr. Luther's Small Catechism.

O: God's people grow in their Christian faith, bound together by God's love in the covenant of their Baptisms.

H₂: And just think, God chose to use us to do all that!

O: With just a little oxygen!

H₁: and a couple little hydrogen!

H₂: Hey! That's me!

O: (Speaking directly to the audience) If God can find such amazing ways to use little atoms like us, just imagine all things God is planning to do through you.

ⁱ P.42 *A Contemporary Translation of Luther's Small Catechism*. Timothy J. Wengert, ©1994 Augsburg Fortress, Publishers.

ⁱⁱ Ibid