



WATER

Recently a large section of the northwest San Fernando Valley was without a clean water supply. People were urged to drink bottled water or disinfect their water before consuming it. For me this was a reminder that it is important to have stored water in case of emergencies. So, how much should you have?

Recommendations:

- Experts generally recommend having at least 1 gallon (128 ounces) of water per person per day. You should have at least a three-day supply.¹
- You are not expected to drink the entire gallon each day. Use rest is left for washing/cooking needs.
- Bottled water comes in many sizes. Pick one that suits your storage options.
- While the water in sealed bottles does not expire, manufacturers often have a recommended shelf life. This related to the fact that the plastic bottle may begin to degrade after two years giving the water a plastic taste.
- It is a good idea to keep track of the age and condition of your stored water. If you see leaking or discoloration, it should be replaced.

What should I do if I don't have enough stored water? There are a variety of ways to disinfect water:

- **Boiling:** Boiling is the best method. Filter water if it is cloudy. Bring the water to a rolling boil for 1 minute. Let it sit to cool. Store in a clean container.
- **Bleach:** Use regular, unscented bleach with 6 or 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite. Filter the water if it is cloudy. Use 2 drops of bleach for each quart of water. Let it sit for 30 minutes. It should have a slight chlorine odor.²
- **Filters:** There are a variety of filters used during camping that are approved to disinfect water.
- **Iodine:** Special iodine tablets to disinfect water are available as well.
- **NOTE: Pool water is not recommended for drinking due to the chlorine/salt and possible contaminants in it. In can be used to flush toilets.**

As we heard in Cathy Gero's sermon on August 10th, being prepared gives us confidence to handle challenges, but most of all it gives us time to see God in the actions of others and to help others.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/water-emergency/about/how-to-create-and-store-an-emergency-water-supply.html>

² <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/emergency-disinfection-drinking-water>