

SAMARITAN'S PURSE®



World Café





World Café

Recommend Size: 5-25 people

Recommended Age: Teens and Adults

Objective: The World Café Event is specifically for small groups or audiences. It is less of a formal event and more of a gathering at a coffee shop or home. While its informal nature makes preparation extremely simple, this event is still a powerful way to inspire, equip, and connect with people interested in Operation Christmas Child.

Agenda:

40-50 minutes

- 10 minutes: Guests gather and order/serve coffee.
- 10-minutes: Icebreaker
 - Have everyone introduce themselves and answer one of the following questions:
 - How long have you been packing shoeboxes?
 - What is your favorite shoebox item to pack?
- 10 minutes: Distribute *Spiritual Impact Stories* (below), have guests read them aloud and discuss.
- 10 minutes: Wrap up
 - Share plan for packing and collecting boxes with your group and have a time of idea sharing or brainstorming.
 - Make sure all points have been covered from your *Wrap-Up Speaking Points* and close in prayer.

Location Suggestions:

- Local café
- Living room/Dining room
- Smaller room in church or community center





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Set up:

- Print *Spiritual Impact Stories*
- Bring OCC Kit and OCC Presentation Kit with materials to share
- Print *Wrap-Up Script*
- Place photos of children on tables

Food and Decorations:

- Buy or serve guests coffee or tea and provide something to eat.

Sample Invitation Text:

Have you ever thought about the spiritual impact one shoebox can have on the life of a child? Come to a night of coffee and fellowship as we share stories and celebrate what God has done in the lives of children around the world.

Join us at the World Café
(Date)
(Location)
For more Information (Contact info)

Welcome Speaking Points:

- Welcome to the World Café. Tonight is going to be pretty simple. We are going to chat, read some stories, and discuss what we have read and heard while enjoying some good coffee and snacks. Let's pray to get started and then I have a few questions for you. (Pray)
- First, does everyone know everyone? (Have everyone introduce themselves and answer one of the following questions.)
 - How long have you been packing shoeboxes?
 - What is your favorite shoebox item to pack?
- I am so glad that you all could join us!





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Wrap-Up Speaking Points:

- Emphasize that shoebox gifts are so simple yet so impactful.
- Discuss your group's shoebox goal and plan.
- Provide information on how to pack a shoebox.
- Discuss how to involve others in your efforts.
- End with prayer, committing everything to the Lord.

Spiritual Impact Stories:

Kenet

Kenet is a young boy who had the opportunity to participate in an Operation Christmas Child event. When the church teachers went to visit him and invite him to attend, they found him very sad because of his parent's recent separation. The teachers immediately began to pray. On the day of the Operation Christmas Child outreach event Kenet's parents also came. Kenet not only received a tangible gift, he saw the power of prayer as God reconciled his parents. Glory to God! He hears us.

Ayanda

"My name is Ayanda and I am from South Africa. I am 14-years-old. I want to thank God for what Operation Christmas Child has done in my life. I stay with my grandmother and I used to be very disobedient to her as well as my teachers at school. I had many friends who were a bad influence on me. One day I was invited to church and we received nice gifts from overseas. I was very happy. We were asked to come to church and attend a class of The Greatest Journey and I enjoyed it. I loved the story of creation because I learned I am made in the image of God and God loves me. I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ and I have never been happier than I am now. I now respect my grandmother and my teachers at school. I no longer enjoy being with a bad company of friends, but I pray for my old friends to come to Jesus like me. Thank you Operation Christmas Child for everything you do for all the children in the world." — Ayanda





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Ugandan Mom

“We just finished an Operation Christmas Child outreach event here in Uganda. One of the parents from the community where the event took place came back to ask if we really gave a gift box to her daughter for free. I told her it was absolutely free! She said, ‘I think your God is real, and I need your God.’ Today is the second day she has come for Bible study. Please pray she finds Jesus and that she will be transformed by God’s love. There’s power in displaying God’s love in a tangible way!”

— Operation Christmas Child International Volunteer

Ajay

You could feel the excitement in the air! During a shoebox distribution in Fiji, one of our volunteers named Judy was in the middle of a church filled with hundreds of young children eagerly waiting to get their boxes. It was quite a scene as each child ripped open their box to discover the treasures inside. That is, each child except a little boy named Ajay. He sat at the end of a bench with his head down and his hands in his lap. Judy soon learned that Ajay was almost blind. His mom had recently died and Ajay had a lot to be sad about. When Judy sat down beside Ajay to help him open his shoebox, tears filled her eyes when she lifted the lid. The first thing visible was a magnifying glass. Judy knew that God had guided the gift-giver as the box was packed months before. Lifting the magnifier, Judy held it up to The Greatest Gift Gospel storybook Ajay held in front of his eyes. A smile crept across his face as he saw the colorful pages of the book and read that Jesus loves him. Ajay, a calm boy, showed his delight when he held the magnifying glass up to Judy and said, “Vinaka” (thank you). When the event was over, Ajay said a gentle good-bye, squeezing Judy’s hand. It was simple, yet profound expression of thanks from a child whose whole world was opened up through the power of a simple gift, sent with love from a stranger who cared and followed the leading of a still small voice.





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Soccer Team

On Ukara Island in Tanzania, The Greatest Journey soccer team has been formed because one boy got a soccer ball in his shoebox gift. When the children were invited back to the church to start The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship course, they started playing ball when their lessons were finished. They then invited other boys not attending their class to join in. As they played together, The Greatest Journey students shared Jesus with them. Thirty children received Christ as a result! Now they have formed one big team from all the Ukara churches who participate in The Greatest Journey. The whole community is praising God for the course because it has blessed the lives of the children with great love and unity. Even non-Christian families are now allowing their children to come to church and through this the Gospel is being preached not only to children, but to the families as well—and it all started with a soccer ball in a shoebox gift!





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Ministry Facts:

Purpose: The world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child, uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world.

Scope: Since 1993, the Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child, has collected and delivered more than 135 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories.

For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

In 2016, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another **12 million** children.

2015 global collection total: more than 11.2 million shoeboxes

2015 U.S. collection total: more than 8.7 million shoeboxes

Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Australia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, and the U.K.

More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide—with more than 170,000 of those in the United States—are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine, and persecution.

Process: Individuals, families, churches, and groups fill empty shoeboxes with a “wow” item—like a doll or soccer ball—and other fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and notes of encouragement.

During **National Collection Week (Nov. 14–21, 2016)**, Samaritan's Purse will collect the gift-filled shoeboxes at more than 4,000 drop-off sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.





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You can find out how to pack a box and where to drop it off by visiting samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child also offers a year-round opportunity to pack personalized shoeboxes online. Go to samaritanspurse.org/occ to select toys and gift items, write a note of encouragement, and “pack” them in a shoebox. These gifts will go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries around the world.

Shoebox gifts are prepared for overseas shipment at eight major processing centers across the U.S.—Atlanta, Baltimore/Washington, Boone, N.C., Charlotte, N.C., Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Minneapolis, and Southern California.

Participants can follow their box online to discover where in the world their gift is delivered by using the donation form found at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Discipleship: More than 7.4 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey, Operation Christmas Child’s follow-up program that is offered to many children who receive shoebox gifts.

The Greatest Journey is implemented through a global church network. This 12-lesson discipleship program teaches children about God’s amazing love and guides them through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus Christ.

Follow Operation Christmas Child on Facebook (facebook.com/OCCshoeboxes), Instagram (@operationchristmaschild), and Twitter (@OCC_shoeboxes). Share pictures from your event using the hashtag #operationchristmaschild.

