
Operation Christmas Child is a unique project of Samaritan’s Purse that brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes.

It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple but hands-on project that has the power to transform children’s lives.

In 2013 alone, teams in Australia and New Zealand sent over 316,000 gift-filled shoeboxes to be delivered by local church partners in South East Asia and the South Pacific. Globally, Samaritan’s Purse collected gift-filled shoeboxes for more than 10 million children in over 100 countries.

As each shoebox gift is delivered, it is treasured by the child that receives it, and is a lasting reminder that he or she is precious to God.

Unpacking the purpose of shoeboxes

The following lessons will enable teachers to explore Biblical concepts that are foundational to the Operation Christmas Child project.

The three lessons unpack the areas of gift giving, what it means to be a Good Samaritan, and bringing hope to the world through being involved in the Operation Christmas Child project.

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OVERVIEW
Christmas is a very familiar celebration to the majority of children in this country. This lesson does not have to be taught immediately prior to Christmas. In fact, if taught earlier in the year it allows an objective look at an important Christian celebration, without being distracted by the trappings of a ‘traditional’ Christmas. The idea of giving and receiving gifts is ‘unpacked’, encouraging students to reflect on the purpose of gifts and the parallels to Jesus being the ultimate gift from God.

CURRICULUM LINKS & VALUES EDUCATION
The following lesson provides the opportunity for an educational and values-rich experience in the following areas:

• Physical, Personal and Social Learning, specifically Interpersonal Development and Civics & Citizenship.
• Students are provided the opportunity to understand and be able to apply values such as care and compassion; doing your best; fair go; freedom; honesty and trustworthiness; integrity; respect; responsibility and understanding, tolerance and inclusion. [National Framework for Values Education in Australian Schools 2005.]

INTRODUCTION
What is the best Christmas present you have ever received and why was it special to you?

a) Bring in a Christmas present you once received that has great sentimental value to you and place it in a shoebox. Children have 10 guesses to work out what’s in the box and you are only allowed to answer yes or no. When they have guessed or run out of guesses, unwrap the box and reveal your favourite present. Explain why it is special to you.

b) Ask children to write their favourite Christmas present on a piece of paper and put it in the shoebox. Children take turns to pick paper out of the box – and guess who the present belongs to.

ACTIVITY
Make 2 points:
1) Sometimes it doesn't matter to you what the present actually is, it’s just the fact that it was given to you by someone special that makes the present special.

2) All these presents in the box are physical objects, which are nice to receive and give us pleasure, but equally you could have written down e.g. ‘a day out with my parents’, ‘an invitation to a party’, ‘a hug from my nan’, etc. which are also gifts given to us by others. Ask children to tell their partner what their favourite ‘non–object’ gift is.

How do Christians celebrate Christmas? Why do they celebrate Christmas in this way?

Talk to the children about why Christians celebrate Christmas and show relevant images. If the children celebrate Christmas they may find some similarities with their own celebrations – encourage them to look out for additional activities and in particular, what Christians believe about Christmas.


WRAP-UP
Why is Christmas an important celebration for Christians? What gift are they celebrating?

Play a well-known Christmas Carol, such as “Away in a Manger”. Look at the words of the song and discuss what it teaches about the meaning of Christmas for Christians. Giving gifts away at Christmas reminds us that God gave us Jesus – He is the greatest gift.

FURTHER RESOURCES

Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au to order the Operation Christmas Child DVD which includes other videos.
PRIMARY SCHOOL

lesson 2

I’LL BE THERE FOR YOU

OVERVIEW
Most teachers have their ‘tried and tested’ ways of presenting the story of The Good Samaritan. It is obviously an important story when considering the work of Samaritan’s Purse so these activities are designed to help the children understand why the Samaritan acted in the way that he did, as an introduction to Lesson 3 about the work of Samaritan’s Purse overseas. Rather than just focusing on the command that Jesus gave in this story, “Love your neighbour as yourself”, this plan mainly considers the complementary command, “Do for others as you would have them do for you” that Jesus gave his followers on another occasion in the Bible.

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INTRODUCTION
When might you need someone to help you?

a) Present the scenarios on the ‘What would you want someone to do for you?’ worksheet for the children to discuss. Either complete the worksheet, act out situations or ‘hot seat’ someone for their opinion. The children could invent their own situations.

★Worksheet can be found at the end of this lesson plan.

b) Recap Lesson 1: God gave us Jesus – He was the greatest gift to us. Christians believe it is important to help people in need. It tells us to do this in the Bible. Explain that in today’s lesson we are going to look at a story that Jesus told to teach people that they should help and care for everyone.

ACTIVITY
Why did Jesus tell the story of The Good Samaritan?

Read the story of The Good Samaritan from the Bible (Luke 10:25-37). Ask the children to imagine that they were the person who was attacked. How would they feel? What would they want someone to do for them? Then consider how the Samaritan would have felt. Why did he stop to help? Was he scared while he was helping this stranger? How did he feel about spending his own money to help?

Do one or both of the following activities.

1) Complete The Good Samaritan worksheet, which puts the children in the shoes of the man who was attacked. Worksheet can be found at the end of this lesson plan.

2) Rewrite the story from the Samaritan’s point of view. It could be written as a diary entry.

WRAP-UP
What did Jesus tell his followers about helping people?

a) Recap the scenarios from the beginning of the lesson. Think about the things you said you want to happen next. Would you be willing to do those things for someone else? Even if it was someone you didn’t like? Why do you think the stranger helped when no one else did? Maybe he knew how he would feel if he was the injured person.

This is a good picture of a rule that Jesus gave to his followers which is sometimes called ‘The Golden Rule’ and is found in Matthew 7:12, “Do for others what you want them to do for you” (Good News Bible).

b) Make posters of The Golden Rule to display around the school.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Suggest the possible meanings or purpose behind the story of the Good Samaritan. Encourage the students to compare the experiences of characters in the stories with their own experience of life.

• When considering the story of The Good Samaritan, discuss some practical ways that we can follow this example of helping others.

CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

ENGLISH: Write simple play scripts; Manipulate narrative perspective by producing a modern retelling; Use the conventions of journalism to report on events

ICT: Design the Samaritan’s diary in Word or Publisher.

“He answered: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’ and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’”

Luke 25:27 (NIV)
Imagine that you find yourself in these situations. Write or draw what you hope would happen next.

1. You missed a penalty in your football match on Saturday. Some team members are blaming you for losing the match. **What do you want someone to do for you?**

2. Your teacher has told you to work in pairs on a Maths question. You are worried because you don’t understand it as well as your partner does. **What do you want someone to do for you?**

3. You are shopping with your friends. You’ve lost your wallet. How are you going to get home without your bus fare? **What do you want someone to do for you?**

4. You’ve started at a new school. You have moved from a different area of the country and do not know anyone. It’s the first playtime. **What do you want someone to do for you?**
1. The robbers have just gone. You’re lying on the dusty road. How do you feel? **What do you shout?**

2. Two people have just gone past. They didn’t help you. How do you feel now? **Send a text to a friend.**

3. A Samaritan is approaching. You’re sure he won’t help. How do you feel now? **Write your thoughts.**

4. You’re recovering at the inn. The Samaritan brought you here and paid the bill out of his own purse. How do you feel now? **Send an email to the Samaritan to thank him.**

*Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse. Franklin Graham, International President.*
OVERVIEW
Often in our society, people feel so far removed from global problems that there is a sense that any help or charity given will make very little difference to someone’s life. The concept of being a global citizen, where we all have a responsibility to help others, is important for students to process. We are all ‘connected’ to other communities around the world, and there are ways we can help those in need, without feeling that our actions are meaningless.

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INTRODUCTION
What’s the connection?

a) Play ‘Connections’ with a partner. Think of an object, then think of a string of objects it could be connected to and see where you end up in 10 moves. E.g. Table – Fish ‘Tables need chairs, chairs have legs, so do dogs, dogs chase cats, cats eat birds, birds can fly, so do planes, planes take you on holiday, on holiday you go swimming in the sea - so do fish’.

b) Can they connect the word ‘Me’ with ‘Cambodia’?

ACTIVITY
What are the needs of the families we send shoeboxes to?
1) Look at the photos at the end of this lesson plan. Ask the students to describe the photos and what stands out to them.
2) Discuss how for Christians the story of The Good Samaritan compels them to help children like this who need help. Christians believe that they should not ignore them but do everything they can to help them even if they are strangers.
3) Explain that this is what the charity ‘Samaritan’s Purse’ is trying to do. Can the children work out where the charity got its name?
4) Watch the Operation Christmas Child VeggieTales Video: “Larry and the shoebox surprise” on YouTube. Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au to order the Operation Christmas Child DVD, which includes other videos.

WRAP-UP
What can we do to meet these needs?
Have a few quiet moments for everyone to think about why they want to help Operation Christmas Child. Will the items they put in the shoeboxes be ‘the greatest gift’ they give this year? Then discuss the practicalities of what you are going to do. Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au to find resources that show you how to pack a shoebox.

CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
GEOGRAPHY: Contrast the countries of Cambodia and Australia.
ENGLISH: Convey feelings, reflections or moods in a poem.
CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP: Children’s rights – human rights. Discuss and reflect on the needs of children in countries such as Cambodia and how these needs are related to human rights.

FURTHER RESOURCES
• Further information about Operation Christmas Child and how to pack shoeboxes can be found at operationchristmaschild.org.au or operationchristmaschild.org.nz
• A ‘How to pack your shoebox’ guide is included at the end of this resource.
• ‘About Me’ colouring-in sheets can be found at the end of this resource and on our website. Students may like to complete these and include them with their shoeboxes.
lesson 3
HOPE FOR THE WORLD
how to pack a shoebox

START WITH AN EMPTY SHOEBOX (lid no bigger than A4)
OR ONE OF OUR PRE-PRINTED SHOEBOXES

CHOOSE AGE & GENDER
- Age
- Gender

INCLUDE $9 FOR EACH SHOEBOX
Donate $9 per box online or place your cash or cheque made out to Samaritan’s Purse Australasia-Operation Christmas Child in an envelope on top of the gifts inside your box to cover shipping and other costs.

FILL SHOEBOX WITH GIFTS
- something to LOVE
- something to PLAY WITH
- something to WEAR
- something for PERSONAL HYGIENE
- something SPECIAL
- something for SCHOOL
- something for PERSONAL HYGIENE

PRAY
Ask God to use your gifts to show His love to the child who receives your shoebox.

RESOURCE ORDER FORM for schools

Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCC Schools Brochure</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3 Poster</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCC DVD</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Printed Shoeboxes</td>
<td>Suggested donation: 50c per Pre-Printed Shoebox</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order Details

Order online at operationchristmaschild.org.au
or mail/fax/email your order form back

Name of School

Contact Person

Phone No.

Delivery Address

Suburb or City

State

Postcode

Country

Email

Return to:

Samaritan’s Purse
International Relief

AUSTRALIA
Postal: PO Box 346, Penrith NSW 2751
Phone: 1300 884 468  Fax: 02 8825 1313
Email: processing@samaritanspurse.org.au
samaritanspurse.org.au
operationchristmaschild.org.au

NEW ZEALAND
Postal: PO Box 870, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140
Phone: 0800 726 274  Fax: 02 8825 1313
Email: processing@samaritanspurse.org.nz
samaritanspurse.org.nz
operationchristmaschild.org.nz

Samaritan’s Purse Australia Ltd. ABN: 60 162 895 623
Samaritan’s Purse AustraliaNZ Ltd. NZCCRN: C66049

*Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse. Franklin Graham, International President.

(continued on next page)
Every shoebox you pack enables us to reach a child with good news and great joy and the knowledge that they are loved and not forgotten.
Let’s Be Friends!

Hi! I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is ______________________ and I am very glad to meet you. I am ______ years old. This map shows Australia and New Zealand. I coloured in where I live. My shoebox has taken a fantastic journey to find you!

I live in

in the city of ______________________

Here is a map of our world. I coloured the country where I live.
There are lots of things I like.

My Favourite:

thing to drink is ________________________________

colour is ________________________________

food is ________________________________

game is ________________________________

When I have free time, I like to ________________________________

In my family, I have

_____ brothers

_____ sisters

_____ pets

My house looks like this

I hope you like the gifts I packed for you. If you send me a letter to this address, I will write back to you and we can become friends.