



# 7 ideas for family impact

**Pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child as a family and double your impact. Teach your children about caring for others as they extend God's love to a boy or girl in need.**

## 1. GIVE THANKS

Spend time thanking God for the blessings He's given you as a family. Encourage each member of your family to name specifics. Let this position of gratitude be the foundation of your shoebox giving. Provide a list of discussion questions to help set the stage for your family's participation in OCC. Suggestions include:

- What if everything you have (toys, TV, clothes, etc.) was gone tomorrow? Would you still have reasons to be thankful?
- On a scale of 1 – 10, how thankful do you think we are as a family?
- If you could only receive one gift a year, what would it be?
- How does giving to others show God we're thankful to Him?
- Why is it important that we're a family that gives to others?

## 2. DECISION TIME

Set a shoebox goal for your family. Discuss what type of boxes you want to pack. Will they be themed? Do they reflect the kids' ages? How will you get the items for the box? Will kids do chores or have a lemonade stand?

## 3. GO SHOPPING

Plan a time when your family can shop for your shoeboxes together. Consider making a race out of it. Can you fill your box--within budget--in 10 minutes or less?

## 4. PERSONALIZE IT

Write a note and include a picture of your family in your shoebox. Include the younger

members of your family in this process by printing the "Let's Be Friends" coloring sheet from the [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) ideas and resources page, print section.

## 5. EMPHASIZE PRAYER

Pray before, during, and after your shoebox packing. Ask God to use your gift to open doors for the Gospel. Create something that reminds your child to pray often for their shoebox recipient.

## 6. POSTAL EXPERIMENT

Teach your kids about the \$7 donation for shipping costs. Take your gift-filled shoebox to a post office and find out what it would cost to ship it to Mongolia or another distant country. How does this compare to the \$7? Help your kids understand the value of the donation. Come up with ideas of how to save or raise money to fuel the journey of the shoebox.

## 7. GO DEEPER

Use the Follow-Your-Box feature on [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ) to learn the destination of your shoebox. Expect an email by the end of the year with a link to specific information about Operation Christmas Child in that location. Prepare a meal from that country or do a geography lesson. If you pack multiple shoeboxes, mark the destinations of your boxes on a world map and lay your hands on those countries as you pray for them. Learn specific ways to pray at [operationworld.org](http://operationworld.org).



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## WITH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



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