



PRIMARY SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.



Operation Christmas Child is a unique project of Samaritan's Purse that brings joy and hope to children in need 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 2017 alone, teams in Canada sent 615,120 gift-filled shoeboxes to be delivered by local church partners in Central America, South America, West Africa, Haiti, and Ukraine. Globally, Samaritan's Purse collected gift-filled shoeboxes for more than 11 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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Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the preparations for, and the main customs, stories, or beliefs associated with Christmas.
- Identify some examples of special times or seasons in the calendar of a Christian community and explain why the community might celebrate them.

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Luke 2:6-7 (NIV)

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 character and citizenship class.
- Students are provided the opportunity to understand and be able to apply values such as care and compassion; doing your best; freedom; honesty and trustworthiness; integrity; respect; responsibility and understanding, tolerance and inclusion.

INTRODUCTION

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

- 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.
- Ask children to write about 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.

CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

COMPUTER STUDIES: Use photos to make a poster or PowerPoint presentation on activities and beliefs about Christmas.

DRAMA: Put on a class re-enactment of the nativity scene.

ART: Design and paint a gift card for someone else in the class or school.

ACTIVITY

Make two 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.

Read the Christmas story from the Bible – Luke 2:1-20.

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 SamaritansPurse.ca/projectleader to order more resources.



For more inspirational videos that show the impact of Operation Christmas Child visit YouTube.



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.

“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 neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 25:27 (NIV)

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.

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

COMPUTER STUDIES: Design the Samaritan's diary in Word or Publisher.

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.



“What do you want someone to do for you?”

Imagine that you find yourself in these situations. Write or draw what you hope would happen next.

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

2 Your teacher has told you to work in pairs on a math 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 cell phone. How are you going to call home without your phone? **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 recess. **What do you want someone to do for you?**



The Good Samaritan

Imagine you are the man who got attacked in the story of The Good Samaritan.

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.**

LESSON 3

HOPE FOR THE WORLD



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the preparations for, and the main customs, stories, or beliefs associated with Christmas.
- Identify some examples of special times or seasons in the calendar of a Christian community and explain why the community might celebrate them.

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?

- 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.'
- Can they connect the word 'Me' with 'El Salvador'?



CROSS-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

GEOGRAPHY: Contrast the countries of El Salvador and Canada.

ENGLISH: Convey feelings, reflections or moods in a poem.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Children's rights – human rights. Discuss and reflect on the needs of children in countries such as El Salvador and how these needs are related to human rights.

ACTIVITY

What are the needs of the families we send gift-filled 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) Visit SamaritansPurse.ca/project-leader-resources to order more resources.

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 SamaritansPurse.ca/occ to find resources that show you how to pack a shoebox.

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Further information about Operation Christmas Child and how to pack shoeboxes can be found at SamaritansPurse.ca/occ
- 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

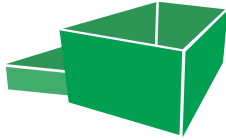
HOPE FOR THE WORLD



How to Pack Your Shoebox



1



START WITH A SHOEBOX

Fill average-sized cardboard or plastic shoeboxes (no large ones) with small gifts, and affix a completed Boy or Girl label to each box.

REMEMBER TO REMOVE & RECYCLE GIFT PACKAGING. Help save the environment!



2

PACK YOUR SHOEBOX

CHOOSE GIRL OR BOY & AGE

2-4

5-9

10-14

PACK GIFTS



SOMETHING TO WEAR



SOMETHING SPECIAL



SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH



SOMETHING TO LOVE



SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL



SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE

3

ESSENTIAL!

DONATE \$10 PER SHOEBOX



ONLINE DONATIONS: (PREFERRED)

Go to SamaritansPurse.ca/occ

CASH, CREDIT CARD OR CHEQUE DONATIONS:

If not donating online, complete the form in the "How to Pack Your Shoebox" brochure and place with your cash or cheque in an envelope inside your box.

4

LABEL YOUR SHOEBOXES

PRINT AND ATTACH LABELS:

Every shoebox must be labeled.



5

FIND YOUR NEAREST DROP OFF LOCATION

In **NOVEMBER**, find your nearest Drop Off Location: SamaritansPurse.ca/occ

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ **SOMETHING TO WEAR:** t-shirt, polo shirt, shorts, skirt, cap, toque, sandals, etc.
- ✓ **SOMETHING TO LOVE:** teddy bear, doll, soft toy, etc.
- ✓ **SOMETHING SPECIAL:** carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, stickers, necklaces, craft kits, wind-up flashlight, a personal note, a photo of yourself, etc.
- ✓ **SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL:** exercise book, pencil case, pens, pencils, coloring pencils, sharpener, eraser, chalk, etc.
- ✓ **SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH:** tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, musical instrument, yo-yo, slinky, finger puppets, etc.
- ✓ **SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE:** soap and face cloth, toothbrush, hairbrush, comb, scrunchies, hair-clips, etc.

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS

- ✗ **ITEMS THAT LEAK OR MELT:** (these can spoil boxes) including toothpaste, shampoo, bubbles
- ✗ **FOOD OR CANDIES OF ANY KIND:** (due to customs regulations) including medicines and vitamins
- ✗ **USED OR DAMAGED ITEMS:** (due to customs regulations) including worn clothing and old toys
- ✗ **BREAKABLE ITEMS:** including glass, porcelain and mirrors
- ✗ **ITEMS THAT CAN SCARE OR HARM A CHILD:** including War items such as toy guns, knives, and military figures
- ✗ **GAMBLING-RELATED ITEMS:** including play money, and playing cards.



Declare HIS Glory

AMONG THE Nations

PSALM 96:3

Send gift-filled shoeboxes
TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



Visit SamaritansPurse.ca/occ and learn how to bless a child overseas through a gift-filled shoebox, given in Jesus' Name. Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse,® Franklin Graham, International President. 1-800-303-1269



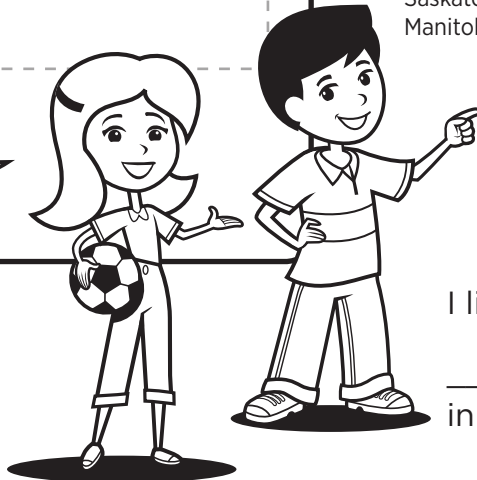

Samaritan's Purse®
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF | CANADA



Let's Be Friends!

This is what I look like

Paste or draw
your photo here

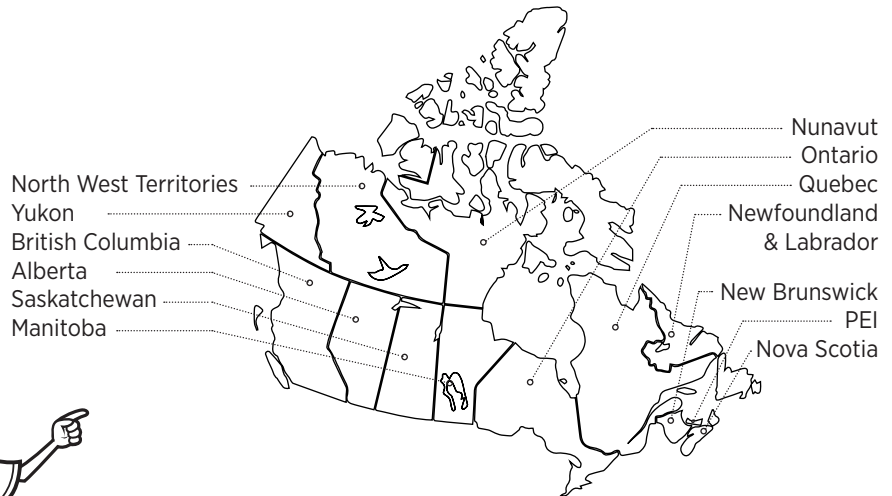


Hi! I would like to introduce myself to you.

My name is _____ and

I am very glad to meet you. I am _____ years old.

This map shows Canada. I colored in where I live. My shoebox has taken a fantastic journey to find you!



I live in

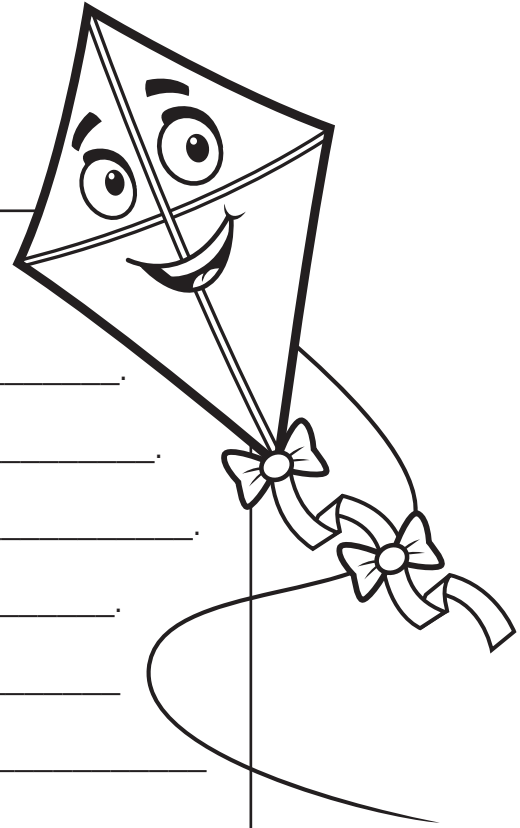
in the city of

Here is a map of our world. I colored the country where I live.





There are lots of things I like.



My Favourite:

thing to drink is _____.

color is _____.

food is _____.

game is _____.

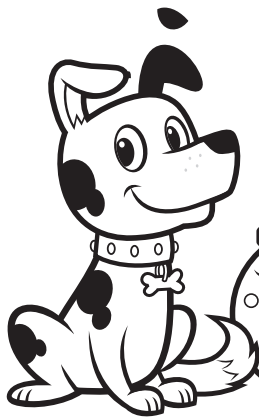
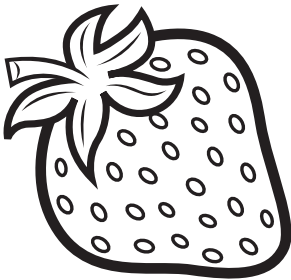
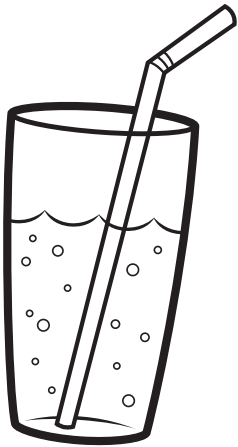
When I have free time, I like to _____

In my family, I have

_____ brothers

_____ sisters

_____ pets



My house looks like this

Draw a photo of your house here

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

