

PROJECT LEADER RESOURCE

CELEBRATION SUNDAY



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Celebration Sunday is for your church or group to join together and rejoice about what God has done through your shoebox-packing efforts, regardless of whether or not you reached your goal.

Suggested Agenda:

15–20 minutes

• **Rejoice**

- 1 minute—*Welcome* and *Shoebox Number Reveal* scripts.

• **Reaffirm**

- 2- to 4-minute video (Choose from a selection at samaritanspurse.org/occ-videos).
- 1 minute—*Impact* script.

• **Pray**

- 10 minutes—Bring shoeboxes up to the platform area. Invite members of the group to come up, lay hands on the boxes, and pray for them.
- Pray specifically for each of the upcoming stops a shoebox makes on its journey to its destination. Use *Impact* script as a reference.
- 1 minute—Close with *Wrap-Up* script.

Set up:

- Print off *Welcome*, *Shoebox Number Reveal*, *Impact*, and *Wrap-Up* scripts.
- Have video and audio technology available and ready to play videos.

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Decoration Ideas:

- Blow up Operation Christmas Child balloons to decorate your meeting area. Give one out to each child who packed a shoebox.
- Set up an Operation Christmas Child-themed Christmas tree.
- Hang up a world map or country flags.

Bonus Ideas:

- Decorate your meeting area for Christmas that week.
- Have participants caravan to the drop-off location with their cars full of shoeboxes.
- Celebrate with a potluck.
- Have children sing *Jesus Loves Me* in multiple languages to the group.
- Have teens read Spiritual Impact Stories provided in the World Café downloadable resource.

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Welcome Script:

Welcome everyone! Several weeks ago we started our shoebox-packing season. Now after *[shopping trips, crafting parties, packing parties, other events]*, we gather again to celebrate what we've been able to achieve together with God's help.

Shoebox Number Reveal Script:

I am so excited to tell you that as of today we have packed _____ *[number of]* shoeboxes. That is a lot of boxes! And I want to personally express my appreciation to each one of you who gave, packed, or prayed.

OR

We wanted to let you know in a fun way how many shoeboxes we received so, *[enjoy this photo montage or insert another fun idea here]*.

Impact Script:

These shoeboxes are headed out from *[your location]* and many of them will be sent to places of unimaginable poverty and darkness. The enemy does not want these boxes filled with the love and joy of Jesus to reach their destination. He doesn't want us to pray for these children. But we have an opportunity to go before these shoeboxes in prayer, walking beside them every step of the way until they reach the hands of a child. We are going to take the next few minutes to pray over these shoeboxes. Join us in praying for them as they travel to the collection center, continue on to the processing centers for inspection, head to the ports for shipping, go through customs, are transported in country, and finally, arrive in communities to share the love of Jesus. Pray as well for the heart of the child that will receive each shoebox, and the pastors or teachers that will be sharing the Gospel at each outreach event. Pray that the light of hope will shine and illuminate the darkness.

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Wrap-Up Script:

We are so blessed to be a part of a simple project that has such a great impact. This year, Samaritan's Purse will deliver millions of Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. We are a small part of this huge effort, but we know that God cares individually about each child. God knows each child by name. He knows their heart's desires. He already knows which shoebox they will receive and the spiritual journey it will start. As we leave here today, please don't stop praying for these children. Pray that God will multiply our efforts and that one day, when we join the multitudes from every nation around the throne of God, some will be there because of our simple shoeboxes.

*Be sure to share pictures of your event with us at Operation Christmas Child using the hashtag **#ipackedashoebox**.*