



A Packing Party Is...

1. A fun way to **INTRODUCE PEOPLE TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**.
2. A wonderful opportunity where attendees of **ALL AGES** serve **TOGETHER**.
3. A **GOSPEL OPPORTUNITY** on both sides of the box.

Here are some tips for hosting a meaningful packing party that creates **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED** Gospel opportunities!

PRAYER

- Prayer is the most important part of packing a shoebox gift. Look for meaningful ways to incorporate prayer **before, during, and after** the event.

START SMALL

- Guests can have a great experience just by packing 2-3 boxes and making space for meaningful letters and prayer.
- Once your guests experience a great packing party, they will become more invested and it will organically grow. You can involve your guests in planning the next packing party and setting the goal.

SHARE THE MISSION

- Take time at the beginning of the event to help guests understand why shoebox gifts open the doors for **evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication**. There are many wonderful stories and videos available to help cast the vision.
- This is also an opportunity to **share the Gospel** with your guests.
- Provide instructions on how to pack a fun, full, and personalized shoebox gift, why the financial contribution is important and what it covers.

PERSONALIZE ITEMS

Every Box Items

8 or more items per box such as notebook, pencils, sharpener, crayons, toothbrush, etc.



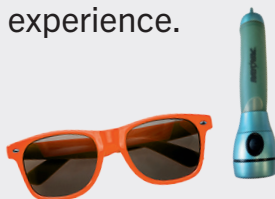
"Wow" Item

1 per box — offer a variety per gender.



Fun Filler Items

At least 3 per box — offer a variety of fun items for guests to choose from so it feels like a shopping experience.



Personal Note

Create an area for guests to write a personal note for each shoebox they pack. Consider making a polaroid camera available for photos.



Tips:

- If you are new to packing parties, we recommend selecting **one age group for both boys and girls.**
- Consider **12-14 items per box.**
- It is common for packing parties to have an **“air toy.”** These are small toys like bouncy balls or stickers that can fill up extra space in boxes.
- You can add box folding, filling pencil bags, or other prep projects to maximize the time.

PLAN FINANCIALLY

How will I cover the \$12.50 donation?

- Fundraise, large donor, or church budget
- Follow Your Box labels
- QR code to Samaritan's Purse website

How will I collect the items?

- Encourage group members to donate (item of the month)
- Amazon gift registry

SAMPLE EVENT AGENDA

1. Share the mission.
2. Give instructions on how to pack and ways to give.
3. Pack a box.
4. Letter writing and photo station.
5. Prayer.
6. Repeat Steps 3 through 5.
7. End with the group praying together and fellowship.

