

# Operation Christmas Child Mini-Devotional



**5 Days of Devotionals to Guide You and  
Your Kids Through the OCC Experience**  
by Liz Millay



**Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.**

**You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.**

**You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

**-Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

© 2015 Liz Millay, [steadfastfamily.com](http://steadfastfamily.com); All Rights Reserved.

Distribution of this ebook from your own website, or reposting images or text on your own website is not permitted. Resale, editing or altering is also prohibited. Please link directly to [simplelifemessylife.com](http://simplelifemessylife.com) to share this book with others.

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for choosing this devotional to guide you as you pack your Operation Christmas Child shoebox.

OCC is a ministry that is near and dear to my heart. I think it is something about being a mother that connects me so strongly to these children. Each year I greatly look forward to packing boxes with my son. I love the thought of how such a simple gift can have such an amazing impact on someone's life for Christ!

I created this devotional so that, whether this is your first year participating in OCC or you are a seasoned veteran, you and your children can pack your box(es) with thoughtfulness, intentionality, and prayer.

As you go through the devotional you will read about God's heart for giving and serving and discuss topics related to OCC. You will cover the process in prayer and pack your box with care.

Once again, thank you for using this devotional with your family. And thank you so much for choosing to take part in Operation Christmas Child.

Blessings,  
Liz

PS Learn more about Operation Christmas Child [here](#).



Liz Millay blogs at [steafastfamily.com](http://steafastfamily.com). She graduated from Cornerstone University in 2009 with a degree in Youth Ministry and Bible. These days, she loves using her education and experience to create resources to help parents impress God's Word upon their children.

Wife to Dave since 2009 and mom to two precocious little boys. Liz spends her days trying to find time to get the dishes done in-between play-doh sessions and puddle jumping. In her moments of spare time she enjoys reading, relaxing with her hubby, and spending way too much time on Pinterest.

# Operation Christmas Child Mini-Devotional — Day One

## READ

“In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we much help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” - Acts 20:35

## DISCUSS

Introduce the concept of Operation Christmas Child.

- Talk about what OCC does.
- Read some of the Shoebox Stories [here](#).

Talk about what Jesus said, that it is “more blessed to give than to receive.”

- What do you think that means?
- Have you ever felt blessed to give?
- How did Jesus give to us?

## PRAY

God,

Thank you for the ability to give.

Help us to have a heart that desires to give to others. Help us to put the needs of others before ourselves - just like Jesus did.

Let us look out for the weak and care for those who are hurting. Let everything we do be done out of love.

Amen.

## DO

- Find a box to put your OCC gifts into. It can be a cardboard shoebox or a plastic box.
- Find some way to add a special touch to your box. For example, decorate the inside or add a bandana to the bottom.



# Operation Christmas Child Mini-Devotional — Day Two

## READ

“But Jesus called for them, saying, ‘Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all.’”

- Luke 18:16-17

## DISCUSS

Talk about what life may be like for the child that your box will go to.

- They will live in a different country.
- They may not have very many possessions, especially toys.
- They may have never gotten a gift before.
- They may be an orphan.

Discuss how Jesus feels about children.

## PRAY

God,

We know you love all children. Please help us to show your love to the child we are sending our shoebox.

Please help us to choose exactly who send our box to. The exact right child who needs our gifts.

Thank you for making it so that we can send our shoebox.

Amen.

## DO

- Chose whether you will be sending your box to a boy or a girl.
- Chose what age category you will be sending your box to: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14.
- Note: Boys age 10-14 are the least represented category.

# Operation Christmas Child Mini-Devotional — Day Three

## READ

“‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ .... The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’” - Matthew 25:35-40  
([Read the whole passage here](#))

## PRAY

God,

Please help us to care for others like we are caring for Jesus.

Give us wisdom to pick the perfect items to go into our shoebox. Let them be just what the child wants and needs. Please help our gifts to be a blessing to the child.

Thank you for the blessing that is giving to others.

Amen.

## DISCUSS

Discuss what kind of things the child who will receive your shoebox might like.

- What types of things do you like?
- Do you think he or she will like the same things as you?
- What do you think your shoebox recipient will need?

Talk about how when we do something for someone else, it is like we are doing it to Jesus himself. How important do you think that caring for others is to Jesus?

## DO

- Brainstorm ideas of what you want to pack in your box.
- Try to think of one “wow” item (doll, ball, stuffed animal, etc).
- Don’t forget to include basics such as hygiene items and school supplies.

## READ

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”  
- Hebrews 13:16

## DISCUSS

Talk about how there have been many stories of children getting boxes that are perfectly suited to their needs and/or wants. How do you think this happens?

Discuss Hebrews 13:16

- Why do you think God wants us to share what we have?
- Why do you think it says that doing good and sharing is a sacrifice?
- Who can you think of that shared the greatest gift through his sacrifice?

## PRAY

God,

Please help us to be willing to make sacrifices in order to help others. Whether it is a sacrifice of money, time, or talents.

Let the gifts we pick out greatly help the child who receives them.

Above all, let our gifts point this child to the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

Amen.

## DO

Go shopping!

- Don't forget to bring your brainstorming list with you.
- You may want to bring your box along as well to see how everything will fit inside.

# Operation Christmas Child Mini-Devotional — Day Five

## READ

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” - Matthew 28:18-20

## DISCUSS

Talk about how when a child receives a shoebox they also receive the gospel message in their language and have the opportunity to join a Bible study. (Read more about it [here](#).)

Talk about how Jesus wants us to not only meet people’s physical needs, but also their spiritual needs.

- Why do you think it is important to tell people about Jesus?
- What does it mean to disciple someone?

## PRAY

God,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to send a shoebox gift. Please let our gift show a child how much they are loved by you.

Please use our simple gift to lead a child to a lifelong faith in you. Help them to become a disciple and follow Jesus.

Let this be the case not just with our shoebox, but with all the others as well.

Amen.

## DO

- Pack all your gifts in the box.
- Consider adding a picture of your family and a note with your address.
- Deliver your box to your drop site during National Collection Week.

(Find a drop site [here](#))