

# Cubbie Mission Minute Lesson: Operation Christmas Child

## Week 1: A Special Gift: Introduction to OCC Shoeboxes

Objective: What is a shoebox gift. Why do we pack shoeboxes. Connect it with being a missionary.

Items needed:

An empty Shoebox

A filled box

Pictures of children receiving shoeboxes

### Begin by asking the children: (Modify questions as needed)

- † Have you ever received a special gift?
- † How did that make you feel?
- † Did you do anything special to receive it?
- † When do you receive special gifts?

### Ask the following questions:

- † Do you know what this is? (Show them an empty shoebox box)
  - Our box is empty, would this be a good gift to give to someone?
  - What would make it a better gift?
- † Who would you give this gift to?
  - Explain that these gifts go to someone we don't know
  - Someone who has likely never received a gift before
  - Someone who lives in another country and doesn't have the same comforts we do
  - Are children just like them

At this point remind the children about Alex and ask the questions again and see if what he experienced fit what you just talked about.

### Explain:

Just like Alex there are many children who have never received a special gift or live in the same way as we do (give examples of the differences). As a missionary we can put together a shoebox and send it to a child in another country far away. What do you think we can put in a shoebox to send to a child?

Allow for responses even if they suggest items that can't go into shoeboxes. The point of this is to get them to talk about what they would want to put in shoebox or what they would like to receive.

Open the filled shoebox. Talk about the responses they gave and look at the items in the box. Show them there are items like toothbrushes, combs, washcloths, and school supplies that you might not want as a gift but someone who has never one of these items might want to have. Show them the fun items and compare what they shared they would want.

If they had suggestions such as candy, food, liquid or other banned items, address that although those are great answers, there are things we can't put in shoeboxes. Food would spoil, candy might melt, glue would spill, glass would break, etc. Things that remind children of war/military are also not allowed, explain that some times they have had a bad experience with that, and we don't want to make them sad.

End the lesson here and explain next week, we will learn how a shoebox has to go on a journey before the child can receive it.