



Discipleship: After the Shoebox Presentation Script

Welcome | Slide 1 (1 min.)

- Introduce yourself.
 - Introduce your role/involvement with Operation Christmas Child.
 - Introduce Operation Christmas Child to the audience.
 - **Say:** Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization led by Franklin Graham. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped people in need around the world in Jesus' Name.
 - Share a Scripture verse.
 - **Say:** Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."
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Mission | Slide 2 (1 min.)

- Share the Operation Christmas Child mission statement.
 - **Say:** The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.
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The Local Church | Slide 3 (1-2 mins.)

- Explain the crucial role of local churches in Operation Christmas Child
 - **Say:** Operation Christmas Child equips and empowers local churches worldwide to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In the United States and 10 other countries, churches play an essential role in packing and collecting shoebox gifts. Internationally, Operation Christmas Child in-country volunteers are part of leadership teams who identify and partner with local churches to share the Gospel, distribute shoebox gifts, and make disciples. In places where there are no churches, the teams have the joy of introducing the Gospel and sometimes starting churches.
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The Greatest Gift | Slide 4 (1-2 mins.)

- Explain how a shoebox gift points to Jesus Christ, God's Greatest Gift.
 - **Say:** Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts that are lovingly packed by individuals, families, churches, and groups. The boxes are full of fun toys, school supplies, and personal care items. Each shoebox gift is a tangible expression of God's love. The gifts are distributed with a Gospel booklet about Jesus called The Greatest Gift. In the past 30-plus years, more than 220 million children have heard the Gospel and received shoebox gifts in over 170 countries and territories.

The Greatest Journey Introduction | Slide 5 (1-2 mins.)

- Share about the discipleship that follows a shoebox gift.
 - **Say:** Trained in-country believers host fun, child-friendly outreach events where boys and girls hear a clear Gospel presentation and receive a shoebox gift. We call these teams in receiving countries “ministry partners,” and they invite children to The Greatest Journey, which is a follow-up discipleship program developed by Samaritan’s Purse. During the 12 lessons of The Greatest Journey, children learn how to follow Jesus, grow in their faith, and share their faith with others. As the boys and girls tell others about what they’re learning, entire families and communities are transformed by the power of the Gospel. God is even using The Greatest Journey to start churches in some communities!
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Video—The Greatest Journey Impact | Slide 6 (1 min.)

- Introduce the video.
 - **Say:** Take a look at this video about a boy in Ecuador whose life was changed by the truth of the Gospel through The Greatest Journey.
 - Video is embedded within the presentation, but here is the link:
<https://video.samaritanspurse.org/josues-story-first-class/>
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After the Journey | Slide 7 (1 min.)

- Discuss the steps children take after The Greatest Journey.
 - **Say:** After children complete the 12-lesson discipleship course, they attend a graduation ceremony where they receive a graduation certificate and a New Testament in their own language. This is often the first copy of God’s Word the child or their family will own. The Gospel is presented and children recite Scripture at the graduation event, inviting families to join children as they follow Christ.
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Spiritual Impact | Slide 8 (1-3 mins.)

- Give a brief overview of The Greatest Journey statistics.
 - **Say:** Over 40 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey. If they all held hands, the line would wrap around the circumference of the earth almost two full times. Since 2009, more than 20 million children have reported decisions for Christ while participating in The Greatest Journey.
- Share an impact story (optional).
 - **Say:** One such child is named Makara. Makara grew up with a difficult homelife in Cambodia. He never felt loved by his parents and struggled to find purpose and hope for his life. A local church in his village invited him to an outreach event. At age 14, he received a gift box and heard the Gospel. As Makara listened to the presentation, he was struck by the truth of God’s love for him. Tears fell from his eyes as this truth settled in. When he opened his shoebox gift, he saw many fun items that he had never had before! A teacher of The Greatest Journey invited him to attend the class the next day. He accepted Christ as his Savior during that first session. When talking about his newfound hope, Makara said that God gives him joy and that his heart is full of peace. He continued to attend The Greatest Journey classes to learn more about the Heavenly Father and His wonderful love for His children.

A Shoebox Gift Is Only the Beginning | Slide 9 (30 secs.)

- Discuss the core principles of evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication.
 - **Say:** Children not only hear the Gospel at an outreach event, but The Greatest Journey enables them to learn more about Jesus Christ from a trained local teacher. This can be only the beginning for a child who embarks on the journey of knowing God, growing in faith, and sharing it with others.
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Call to Action | Slide 10 (30 secs.)

- Discuss how the audience can be involved.
 - **Say:** By packing a gift-filled shoebox, you can introduce a child to the Gospel and open the door for them to attend The Greatest Journey discipleship program. You can also Build a Shoebox Online year-round. To learn more, go to **samaritanspurse.org/occ**.
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Closing | Slide 11 (1 min.)

- Give a closing statement and prayer.
 - **Say:** Hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ can change children's lives—now and for eternity! One of the most meaningful Gospel truths for children to hear is how much Jesus loves them. He said in Matthew 19:14: “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Praise God for Jesus Christ. God's Greatest Gift! Let's pray.