Bonus Activities

All Ages

Pack Christmas Boxes: Gather shoeboxes and supplies to fill them, like toiletries, coloring books, markers and other small items (like games, toys, etc.). Encourage children to choose items to pack in their shoeboxes. Say a prayer over the boxes and talk about how they will go to families who need a bit of help at Christmas. Deliver them to a homeless shelter, community outreach, or somewhere else that helps families in need.

Scavenger Hunt: Gather pictures of hats, gloves, toiletries, Lego sets, slinkies, card games, markers and coloring books (or actual items). Hide them around the room and encourage children to find them. Once every item has been found, talk about how these items are ones that go into the Christmas boxes for children in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Preschoolers

Play School: Encourage one child to be the teacher and the others to be the students. Talk about the supplies they need to go to school. Talk about how Scarlette Jasper works with schools to help families in need.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

CBF Field Personnel Scarlette Jasper and Olive Branch Ministries have been collecting Christmas boxes to brighten the season for children in some of America's poorest counties for more than 10 years now. This session focuses on the theme of sharing God's love.

Bible Verse

James 2:14-17

My friends, what good is it to say you have faith, when you don't do anything to show you really do have faith? Can this kind of faith save you? If you know someone who doesn't have any clothes or food, you shouldn't just say, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat." What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead!

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "What Christmas gifts have you gotten that you love?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Sharing God's Love through Shoeboxes."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Sharing God's Love Through Shoeboxes

Scarlette Jasper, CBF field personnel, looked at her team from Olive Branch Ministries. "You guys have done such a great job! Look at all these Christmas boxes that are ready to go! When Living Faith Baptist Fellowship in Elizabethtown came to me and said they wanted to do a Christmas Box program here in McCreary County, I wasn't sure how it would work. I went to the schools to see if they thought it would help our community, and every principal I spoke to was so excited to try this. And now, here we are more than 10 years later, and we just collected over 3,000 boxes! You guys have put in so much hard work, and I am so grateful for you all. And most importantly, these boxes will make a difference for these kids. They may be the only presents they get for Christmas, and they will go to several elementary schools this year. These kids will have some much-needed toiletries, warm socks, mittens, hats and a few fun things too. This year we are also celebrating the many partners from 10 different states who helped us pack these boxes! Multiple churches and individuals in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and in other organizations have helped make sure these kids have gifts this Christmas. It's amazing to see what the Lord can do when we work together!" Everyone started cheering as Scarlette finished. There was still more work to be done, but they were excited to do it together.

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How did Scarlette Jasper get started with Christmas boxes?
- **Ask**: How are they using Christmas boxes to help families in their community?
- **Ask**: How can we help families in our community?
- **Say**: A church came to Scarlette to see about expanding the Christmas box program. She talked to the schools to see if it was needed in their community, and they got to work. Now, they deliver more than 3,000 Christmas boxes to children in need. These boxes help them have toiletries, warm clothes like socks, mittens and hats and even some fun games. They help families know that they are loved, and help children have what they need.
- **Pray**: Thank you, God, for Scarlette Jasper and Olive Branch Ministries. Help them find new ways to help those in need in their community. Help us to find ways to help those in need in our community too. Amen.

CBF Field Personnel Scarlette Jasper

CBF Field Personnel Scarlette Jasper and Olive Branch Ministries have been collecting Christmas boxes to brighten the season for children in some of America's poorest counties for more than 10 years now.

STUDENT HANDOUT
DECEMBER 22, 2024

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Draw a Scene

Imagine elementary schools giving out Christmas boxes. Imagine the joy on the kids' faces, and the things they may receive in their boxes. Draw the scene how you imagine it.