

Cleaning Out the Closet

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Have family members clean out their closets and donate items they no longer use. Many charitable organizations benefit greatly by receiving items that families give.

For
Teen Family

Season
Winter

Needed

Bible, one copy of Places that Accept Household Donations, a pen or pencil, closets that need cleaning out

Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin.

*God, guide us as we sort through our belongings and decide what needs to be given to charity.
Amen.*

2. Ask someone to read aloud Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Then ask another family member to read aloud 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

3. As a family, talk about these questions:
 - Why is it important to be giving?
 - Why does it matter how we use (or not use) the items we own?
 - How full are your closets?
 - When is the last time you cleaned out your closet?
 - Why is it important to give to charity items we no longer use?
4. Look at the Places that Accept Household Donations sheet. As a family, talk about each charity on the list. Circle the one you wish to donate to.
5. Go clean out a closet. If you wish, have each family member clean out one of his or her closets. If a closet is too overwhelming, focus on cleaning out one part of it, such as a shelf or a certain type of clothing (such as T-shirts). Young children will need help.
6. Remove items from the closet that you no longer use. Throw out damaged items. Place the gently used items in a bag or box to give to the charity of your choice.
7. Contact the charity when you're ready to give the donation. Find out if the charity will pick up your items or if you need to bring them in.

Places that Accept Household Donations

Find a charitable organization that accepts gently used household donations near you. Some have you bring the donations to them while others will provide a pick-up service for free. Consider these sources:

1. [Goodwill Industries](#)
2. [Lupus Foundation of America](#)
3. [Vietnam Veterans of America](#)
4. [Salvation Army](#)
5. Find another charitable organization near you through a search engine. For example, if you live in Dallas, search for: “Donating items to charities in Dallas.”
6. Ask your local church if they know of places that accept household donations. Many churches have connections in your local community.

