

# **Collect School Supplies**

By Jolene Roehlkepartain



As summer winds down, families get ready for school by stocking up on school supplies. Some families struggle to purchase school supplies, and some students won't have the supplies they need on the first day of school. Reach out and help by donating school supplies.

## For

Teen Family

## Season

Summer

#### Needed

Bible, bookmarks or slips of paper

### Prepare in Advance

Place bookmarks in your Bible at 2 Thessalonians 3:13 and Galatians 6:9.

## **Activity Plan**

1. Pray aloud to begin:

Generous God, enlarge our hearts to be more understanding and giving. Amen.

- 2. From your Bible or the text below, ask someone to read aloud 2 Thessalonians 3:13. Then have another person read aloud Galatians 6:9. After hearing the verses, summarize what they say about helping other people. Wonder together why verses like these are in the Bible.
  - 2 Thessalonians 3:13: "As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good."

Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

3. Check with your local food pantry, school, United Way, or other community service organization to see if it is collecting school supplies for families in need. Sometimes organizations post the details of projects like this on their websites.

- 4. Encourage family members to reflect on what it would be like to begin the school year without basic school supplies. Discuss why various groups plan ways to donate school supplies to families who need them. As a family, talk about how you would feel if you couldn't afford school supplies and someone anonymously donated supplies for your children to use. Why might an anonymous gift of school supplies be appreciated by some families?
- 5. Visit your school's website to find a list of required school supplies for the upcoming school year. Decide if you want to help students in an elementary or middle school, or if you want to help highschool students.
- 6. Decide how much you want to spend on this helping project and choose which supplies you will purchase. Watch for back-to-school sales to get good bargains, so you can give more for your money.
- 7. Consider enlisting the help of other families and friends or a church youth group or Sunday school class. Teens often enjoy working with their friends to make a service project even bigger and better.
- 8. Arrange a time to deliver the supplies you collect to the donation drop-off location. Before you get out of the car with the supplies you've gathered, pause to ask God to bless the students who will receive your gift.