

Party and Serve

By Courtney Still



As you plan your Christmas party with friends or family, direct your gift-giving outward. Donate wrapped items to a local organization or family in need and make a party out of it!

For
Young Adult

Season
Winter (prior to Christmas)

Needed

Boxes/containers, items to donate, wrapping paper, gift tags, tape, scissors, pens

Prepare in Advance

- Choose an organization with a program that specifically accepts Christmas gifts or decide on a family or local shelter to give your donations to.
- Invite guests and let them know they should each bring at least one item to donate or several small items. These could include: books, toys, clothing items, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items.
- Purchase wrapping paper and small gift tags for messages or Bible verses.

Experience

1. Once everyone arrives at the party, have them set their gifts in one place so you can organize them if needed (i.e. if you are making kits to send to people with essential items like soap, toothbrushes, etc.)
2. Have fun and take care wrapping the gifts, just like you would if they were meant for a family member or friend. Don't forget to include tags with thoughtful messages of hope or Bible passages written on them.
3. If you are giving your gifts to more than one family or organization, decide how they will be distributed.

Consider & Discuss

- How does it feel to purchase gifts for someone other than your friends or family?
- How does it feel to be giving but not receiving?
- Put yourself in the position of someone less fortunate. How do you suppose they feel upon receiving your gifts?
- How will participating in this activity affect your gift-giving in the future?

Pray

Once all the gifts are wrapped and organized, say this prayer over them before they are given to those in need:

O God, may those who have so little know that they are in our hearts and most importantly that you are always with them. We pray that this offering to those in need will brighten dark times and help them to know they are not forgotten or alone. And help us to be rooted in your love during this season of giving. Amen.