

SERVANT OF ALL

A Year of Kits with LWR



COMMEMORATE
REFORMATION
500!
Build Kits
of Care.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

buildkitsofcare.org

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.



Project Promise: Build Kits of Care is LWR's new community for kit builders like your congregation. Find resources to help you reach out and invite new people to join you in putting faith into action through kit-making at buildkitsofcare.org.

In the 500 years since Martin Luther placed his 95 Theses on the Wittenberg door, Lutherans have spread the good news around the world, from preaching the gospel and administering the sacraments to proclaiming the love of God for all people in many ways! Lutherans have been making a difference with Lutheran World Relief for just a fraction of that time, since 1945. In that short span, U.S. Lutherans have made and sent more than \$661 million worth of Quilts and Kits around the world. In the past 25 years alone, that has meant an estimated 8.8 million Mission Quilts, 3.3 million School Kits, 1.5 million Baby Care Kits and 2.9 million Personal Care Kits.

To mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, LWR is inviting Lutherans and all who want to make a difference worldwide to join us in a year of making Kits of Care for those in need. This resource is your guide for planning your community's year of kit making. You can use it in 2017 along with all your community's celebrations of this momentous anniversary. But don't stop in 2017 — this resource can be used anytime to rally your community around building Kits of Care for sisters and brothers in need around the world!

INSIDE THIS RESOURCE, FOR EACH KIT YOU WILL FIND:

- A **suggested time of year** to focus on each kit. This is based on theme and access to the resources for that particular kit. It can be adapted to fit your congregation's needs.
- **Guidelines and suggestions** for your actual kit assembly.
- A **Bible study** to give your congregation's act grounding in the Word of God.
- A **game** for all generations to bring a little fun and focus to your act of service.
- A **craft** to bring the beauty of creativity into your congregation's celebration.
- A **Reformation Moment** that highlights a part of Martin Luther's teachings connected to your congregation's act of building Kits of Care.
- **Blessings and prayers** to send your kits on their way into the hands of those in need.

Please feel free to adapt the ideas in this resource to build a program that works best for your congregation or group.

For more information about how to track your kits and for other helpful tips and tricks, visit buildkitsofcare.org. And to share what your congregation is up to, use [#kitsofcare](https://twitter.com/kitsofcare) on your pictures across social media.

Martin Luther said that "a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all." For five centuries, that mighty message has informed so much of Lutherans' calling to live a life of discipleship. Thank you for following that call to turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts and helping LWR transform lives around the world.



IN THE PAST 25 YEARS U.S. LUTHERANS HAVE MADE AN ESTIMATED:



8.8 MILLION
MISSION QUILTS



3.3 MILLION
SCHOOL KITS



1.5 MILLION
BABY CARE KITS



2.9 MILLION
PERSONAL CARE KITS

General Kit Assembly Guidelines

Your careful adherence to the instructions in this guide will ensure that all LWR Project Promise Kits are:

USEFUL. LWR works closely with our overseas partners to determine the most appropriate and useful contents to include in kits. Your kits will do the most good possible when containing only the items included in the lists.

CONSISTENT. Uniformity of kit contents helps our partners plan properly for distributing a shipment and keeps international shipping processes cost-effective and efficient. Disparity in kit contents can cause costly delays.

FAIR. When all kits contain the same items, recipients are treated equally and fairly, which is important for those who have already experienced a great deal of injustice or tragedy.

FOR ALL LWR PROJECT PROMISE KITS, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:

- **Give new items only.** Sending top-quality items shows the greatest care and respect for the dignity of the recipient. Quality items also withstand the harsh conditions many recipients face.
- **Do not add items or decorate items with any religious symbols or messages, or with your congregation's name.** LWR provides kits based on need, regardless of religious creed. The governments of the receiving countries might misinterpret religious references, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the items most.
- **Do not add items or decorate items with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.** LWR and our overseas partners have access to areas of the world that others do not because we are impartial humanitarian organizations. If our intentions are misinterpreted as being politically motivated, our work, our partners and the people we assist could be endangered.

ASSEMBLY TIPS AND TRICKS

- Consider removing all excess packaging from individual items before assembly to increase efficiency.
- Consider the size of your group and the size of the space. Set up long tables in assembly-line fashion for large numbers of people and kits. For a very large group or very large quantity of kits, consider making two separate assembly lines.
- If space is limited, you can divide the supplies and people into groups around individual tables for assembly.
- If appropriate, consider assigning a few people to specific tasks during the assembly: keeping the assembly line supplied with items, securing the kits closed, counting the kits as they are packed into the boxes, taping the boxes closed, etc.
- Download a set of signs with specific instructions for each item to place with the piles of items in each assembly line. You can find the signs at buildkitsofcare.org.
- For more tips and tricks specific to your kit, including videos, visit buildkitsofcare.org.





SCHOOL KITS

SUGGESTED MONTHS: JUNE-SEPTEMBER

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: PENTECOST

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH SCHOOL KIT:



One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



One box of 16 or 24 crayons



One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



One pencil sharpener



One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



One 2½" eraser



Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Place the ruler in between the notebooks. Pack all items into the drawstring backpack, and cinch drawstring closed to secure. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

If you would like to purchase backpacks, visit lwr.org/schoolkits for a list of suppliers that have appropriate bags available for purchase in bulk.

PACKING YOUR SCHOOL KITS

- Pack completed School Kits in boxes, taking care to ensure that nothing is crushed. Label "School Kits" in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes, or attach a Quilt & Kit Tracker label.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.



BIBLE STUDY

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

OBJECTIVE

For participants to connect their action of creating School Kits with the call for disciples of Jesus to give of themselves, by offering the gift of education to others.

AGES

The plan below can be modified and adapted to be appropriate for participants ages 12 and above. Adults and youth are encouraged to participate together in this Bible study!

RESOURCES

- Markers, pens or colored pencils
- Butcher paper, whiteboard, chalkboard or similar
- Bibles
- School Kit samples
- Copies of the scripture, typed out for ease of reading or photocopied from a Bible so that participants can write on the copies (optional)

PREPARATION

To help set the stage for your Bible study, you can place School Kit samples around the room to refer to later. You can also affix your large paper to the walls ahead of time. Have Bibles available for participants to use. (If you have an intergenerational group, you can encourage participants of different generations to share Bibles.) This Bible study is written using the New Revised Standard Version.

Have participants open their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Choose a method best for your group to read the text together. A larger group can divide into small groups to read it together, then come back with the large group; a smaller group can have several participants read portions of the text out loud.

After your group has finished the reading, pass out the copies of the text and writing instruments if you plan to use them. Adapt the directions and questions below to best serve your group.

Have participants read the text from the paper copy (either quietly to themselves or in small groups) and mark the words or phrases that stand out to them. After a few minutes, ask the group to share their thoughts. Capture the answers on the large paper on the wall.

Ask them to read the text again (either quietly to themselves or again in small groups), this time noting what they think those standout words and phrases mean in the context of the reading. After a few minutes, walk through the list as a group and have people discuss their interpretations of the words and phrases.

Have participants read the text a third time, focusing on the ways God might be calling them to apply the text to their life. After a few minutes of reflection, ask the group to share their thoughts. Point out some ways that the group and/or your congregation might be living out the calling of the text. Think about and discuss other ways you could answer that call.

If the group needs some help getting started with this discussion, ask:

- What does it mean for us to sow sparingly/bountifully?
- What does it mean for us to reap sparingly/bountifully?
- What does a cheerful giver look like?
- What does it mean for us to be generous?

Turn your attention to the School Kit samples. Take a moment to open one and look at the supplies inside. Share a story about someone who received one of LWR's School Kits (you can find stories at buildkitsofcare.org/project-promise-in-action). Ask: How might this bag of school supplies help someone like this person? How are we answering God's call through this scripture in our School Kits project?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank you so much for all the good gifts you give to us each day. Thank you for the opportunity to share our gifts and our talents with our neighbors around the world. Please bless the kits we make and the people who receive them. Help us always to remember to be generous. In your name we pray, Amen!*

 **GAME**

“Where’s My Pencil?!” Race

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Set up stations around a large space with various activities that have to be done without the use of certain School Kit supplies. Sample activities include:

- Print a Bible verse, three to four sentences long, on a piece of paper. Team members can read the verse for 10 seconds and then repeat it back from memory to another member of their team. Wouldn’t this be easier with pens and pencils?!
- Have a piece of construction paper for each player and a sample shape already cut out. Each player must make that shape from the construction paper without using scissors. Wouldn’t this be easier with scissors?!
- Cut several pieces of string to the same length. Players must guess the length of the strings without a ruler and cannot advance to the next station until they get it right. Wouldn’t this be easier with a ruler?!
- Set up an old-fashioned egg-and-spoon relay, but this time players need to balance the egg on a textbook. If the egg falls, start again. (Use hard-boiled eggs to lessen the mess.) Wouldn’t this be easier with a backpack?!

Add to the fun of this activity by challenging each team one week in advance to plan their own station for the other teams. Have them bring the materials needed for their station.

PLAYING THE GAME

Divide your group evenly into teams. Depending on the size of your group you can have each team member attempt each station, or have one member of each team complete a station. The first team to complete every station wins.



 **CRAFT**

Decorating School Kit Backpacks

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need School Kit backpacks and fabric markers or paint.

The backpacks provided in LWR School Kits are such a valuable resource for children around the world who often have to travel long distances to reach school. Adding a personal touch by decorating your backpacks shares a message of unity with students in their education.

Before decorating, remind participants of the following guidelines:

- Do not decorate items with any religious symbols or messages, or with your congregation’s name.
- Do not decorate items with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Respecting these guidelines allows us to continue to provide such valuable resources to those most in need, especially in parts of the world where such images might jeopardize their delivery.





REFORMATION MOMENT

Martin Luther was an incredibly powerful advocate for the importance of education. “Where are the preachers, jurists and physicians to come from,” he wrote, “if grammar and other rhetorical arts are not taught? For such teaching is the spring from which they all must flow.”

To the children who receive your School Kits, these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on ending poverty.

Lead a discussion with your group about the importance of education to your Lutheran faith. What responsibility do you have as disciples of Christ to help ensure quality education for all? What are you doing in your local community? What are you doing internationally? As Lutherans we emphasize that all children of God have a vocation or calling in the world. What role does providing access to the resources for quality education play in that part of what it means to be Lutheran?



LITANY OF BLESSING FOR SCHOOL KITS

(Using text from Psalm 141 and Proverbs 9:9)

Leader: We call upon you, O Lord; come quickly to us.

Congregation: Give ear to our voices when we call to you.

L: We offer these School Kits for your blessing,

C: That they may increase wisdom, learning and knowledge in your children.

L: Bless the pencils and pens,

C: That by using them, children will learn to write.

L: Bless the rulers and pencil sharpeners,

C: That they will enable a journey of learning.

L: Bless the notebooks, erasers, crayons and scissors,

C: That they will enable creativity to flow into our world.

L: Bless the backpacks and all their contents,

C: That the children who receive these kits might carry with them a love of learning.

L: Lord, give instruction to the wise and they will become wiser still;

C: Teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.

CLOSING PRAYER

L: God of all knowledge, we dedicate these kits in your name, for our neighbors' good and for the sake of our world. May those who receive these gifts know your deep love for them and for all people. Bless the items in these School Kits and ensure that they help to meet the needs of our neighbors around the world. Watch over the teachers and educators who will instruct the children as they use these materials. Let knowledge and wisdom spring forth in many communities as a result of these gifts. And may all be done to your glory. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.



BABY CARE KITS

SUGGESTED MONTHS: **OCTOBER–JANUARY**

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: **PENTECOST, ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY**



INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH BABY CARE KIT:



Two lightweight cotton T-shirts
(no Onesies®)



Two long- or short-sleeved gowns
or sleepers (without feet)



Two receiving blankets, medium-
weight cotton or flannel, or
crocheted or knitted with
lightweight yarn, up to 52" square



Four cloth diapers, flat fold
preferred; Two diaper pins or
large safety pins



One jacket, sweater or
sweatshirt with a hood,
or include a baby cap



Two pairs of socks



One hand towel, dark color recommended



Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap
equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original
wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Gently used, clean clothes (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Place all items in the center of one receiving blanket, fold the blanket over snugly and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

PACKING YOUR BABY CARE KITS

- Pack completed Baby Care Kits in boxes. Label "Baby Care Kits" in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes, or attach a Quilt & Kit Tracker label.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.



BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 22:34-40

OBJECTIVE

For participants to connect their action of creating Baby Care Kits with the call for disciples of Jesus to give of themselves, by offering the gift of clothes and supplies for babies and their families.

AGES

The plan below can be modified and adapted to be appropriate for participants ages 12 and above. Adults and youth are encouraged to participate together in this Bible study!

RESOURCES

- Markers, pens or colored pencils
- Butcher paper, whiteboard, chalkboard or similar
- Bibles
- Baby Care Kit samples
- Copies of the scripture, typed out for ease of reading or photocopied from a Bible so that participants can write on the copies (optional)

PREPARATION

To help set the stage for your Bible study, you can place Baby Care Kit samples around the room to refer to later. You can also affix your large paper to the walls ahead of time. Have Bibles available for participants. If you have an intergenerational group, you can encourage participants of different generations to share Bibles. This Bible study is written using the New Revised Standard Version.

Have participants open their Bibles to Matthew 22:34-40. Choose the best method for your group to read the text together. A larger group can divide into small groups to read it together, then come back with the large group; a smaller group can have several participants read portions of the scripture out loud.

After your group has finished the reading, pass out the copies of the text and writing instruments if you plan to use them. Adapt the directions and questions below to best serve your group.

Have participants read the text from the paper copy (either quietly to themselves or in small groups) and mark the words or phrases that stand out to them. After a few minutes, ask the group to share their thoughts. Capture the answers on the large paper on the wall.

Ask them to read the text again (either quietly to themselves or again in small groups), this time noting what they think those standout words and phrases mean in the context of the reading. After a few minutes, walk through the list as a group and have people discuss their interpretations of the words and phrases.

Have participants read the text a third time, focusing on the ways God might be calling them to apply the text to their life. After a few minutes of reflection, ask the group to share their thoughts. Point out some ways that the group and/or your congregation might be living out the calling of the text. Think about and discuss other ways you could answer that call.

If the group needs some help getting started with this discussion:

- Why are the commandments important?
- What does Jesus mean that “all the law and the prophets” depend on these two commandments?
- What does it mean for us to love God with all our heart, soul and mind?
- What does it mean to love ourselves?
- Who is our neighbor?
- What does it look like for us to love our neighbor the same way as we love ourselves?

Turn your attention to the Baby Care Kit samples. Take a moment to open one and look at the supplies inside. Share a story about someone who received one of LWR’s Baby Care Kits (you can find stories at buildkitsofcare.org/project-promise-in-action). Ask: How might these clothes and supplies help someone like this person? How are we following God’s commandments through our Baby Care Kit project?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank you for providing for the needs of our families, friends and community. Please be with the parents and the babies who will receive our gifts, and let these supplies make life safer and easier for them. Please open our hearts each day to see you in our neighbor and to practice loving you, ourselves and our neighbors. In your name we pray, Amen!*



GAME

Great Baby Race

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need one five-pound bag of sugar and one of each item from a Baby Care Kit for each team. Set up one station for each item (eight total) a reasonable distance apart, between a starting line and a finish line.

PLAYING THE GAME

Divide your group into teams of no more than two to three people each and provide every team with a bag of sugar as their baby. Each team begins at a different station and must race from station to station, using each item from the Baby Care Kit on their baby. Suggested actions include:

- Placing the diaper on your baby with the safety pins
- Dressing your baby in the T-shirt, gown or jacket/cap (one item at each station)
- “Washing” your baby with a bar of soap, then drying with the hand towel while singing a song
- Wrapping up your baby in the receiving blanket
- Finding a creative way for your baby to wear the socks

Get your group involved in being creative and creating other stations. The first team to take their baby through all the stations and get to the finish line with all items still on their baby wins!

CRAFT

Calling Journals

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You can do this craft with either premade journals that can be decorated or the supplies for participants to build their own journals.

Baby Care Kits play an important role in the health and well-being of future generations who will ensure the prosperity and stability of their communities. As Lutherans, we know the importance of every calling and vocation in working for the welfare of all God’s people. Begin your season of collecting Baby Care Kits by creating beautiful journals: Engage your group in the activity of intentionally keeping a journal about the places where they feel God is calling them in their lives. Share important verses about calling, like Isaiah 6:8, Ephesians 4:11-13 and Acts 6:1-6. Challenge the group to keep entries on ways they feel called by God to use their gifts for the sake of the world. All ages can participate in this activity regardless of where they are in life.



REFORMATION MOMENT

Luther understood the importance of passing along the faith early in life. This is most evident in his creation of the Small Catechism for use in the home as a primer on Christian discipleship. Begin your group discussion by exploring the ways that you are intentionally passing along the faith with the youngest disciples in your congregation. How are you providing parents with the resources they need to live out this calling like Luther did?

LWR is called to help families around the world nurture healthy children. The 1,000 days between a mother's pregnancy and her child's second birthday offer a unique window of opportunity to build healthier and more prosperous futures. The right nutrition during this 1,000-day window has a profound impact on a child's ability to grow, learn and thrive—and a lasting effect on a country's health and prosperity. To learn more about what LWR and our partners are doing to address this, visit thousanddays.org.

One of the underlying causes of malnutrition is poor infant caregiving and hygiene. Your Baby Care Kits will be a valuable resource in reversing that in the lives of a mother and child. After learning about the importance of that first 1,000 days, explore with your group some of the actions you are taking to help address these needs in your local community. What are you doing internationally? What new mission can you take on as a group to help address these needs and help provide abundant life for the youngest and most vulnerable around the world?



LITANY OF BLESSING FOR BABY CARE KITS

(Using text from Luke 2)

Leader: In his mercy, Jesus entered our humanity as a child.

Congregation: This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

L: Today, we offer these gifts to care for children around the world,

C: Just as you were cared for as you entered our fragile humanity.

L: We offer these Baby Care Kits for your blessing, O God,

C: That they might clothe, comfort, clean and care for your children.

L: Bless the clothing, blankets and diapers,

C: That they will provide warmth, comfort and protection from the elements.

L: Bless the soaps and towels,

C: That they may clean and care for the newest members of the global family.

L: Watch over parents who care for their newborn children,

C: That they will know the love and support of their neighbors.

L: We give you thanks for all that you have given us to care for as stewards of creation.

C: Now bless these gifts for your people.

CLOSING PRAYER

L: God of compassion, we dedicate these kits in your name, for our neighbors' good and for the sake of our world. May those who receive these gifts know your deep love for them and for all people. Bless the items in these Baby Care Kits and ensure that they help to meet the needs of our neighbors around the world. Watch over the parents and children who will receive these kits. May health and life spring forth in many communities as a result of these gifts. And may all be done to your glory. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.



Brenda Kimaro for LWR

PERSONAL CARE KITS

SUGGESTED MONTHS: FEBRUARY–MAY

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: EPIPHANY, LENT, EASTER, PENTECOST

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT:



2-3 bath-size bars of soap totaling 8-9 oz.
(no mini or hotel-size bars, please), **in original packaging**



One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*



One sturdy comb
(no picks or fine-toothed combs);
remove packaging



One metal nail clippers
(attached file optional);
remove packaging



One lightweight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27"), dark color recommended



Rubber bands, string, ribbon or yarn to secure each kit



Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

PACKING YOUR PERSONAL CARE KITS

- Pack completed Personal Care Kits in boxes. Label "Personal Care Kits" in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes, or attach a Quilt & Kit Tracker label.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.

*You may use toothbrush multipacks by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.



BIBLE STUDY

Deuteronomy 10:17-22

OBJECTIVE

For participants to connect their action of creating Personal Care Kits with the call for disciples of Jesus to give of themselves, by offering the gifts of dignity and health to our neighbors around the world.

AGES

The plan below can be modified and adapted to be appropriate for participants ages 12 and above. Adults and youth are encouraged to participate together in this Bible study!

RESOURCES

- Markers, pens or colored pencils
- Butcher paper, whiteboard, chalkboard or similar
- Bibles
- Personal Care Kit samples
- Copies of the scripture, typed out for ease of reading or photocopied from a Bible so that participants can write on the copies (optional)

PREPARATION

To help set the stage for your Bible study, you can place Personal Care Kit samples around the room to refer to later. You can also affix your large paper to the walls ahead of time. Have Bibles available for participants. If you have an intergenerational group, you can encourage participants of different generations to share Bibles. This Bible study is written using the New Revised Standard Version.

Have participants open their Bibles to Deuteronomy 10:17-22. Choose the best method for your group to read the text together. A larger group can divide into small groups, then come back together with the large group; a smaller group can have several participants read portions of the text out loud.

After your group has finished the reading, pass out the copies of the text and writing instruments if you plan to use them. Adapt the directions and questions below to best serve your group.

Have participants read the text from the paper copy (either quietly to themselves or in small groups) and mark the words or phrases that stand out to them. After a few minutes, ask the group to share their thoughts. Capture the answers on the large paper on the wall.

Ask them to read the text again (either quietly to themselves or again in small groups), this time noting what they think those standout words and phrases mean in the context of the reading. After a few minutes, walk through the list as a group and have people discuss their interpretations of the words and phrases.

Have participants read the text a third time, focusing on the ways God might be calling them to apply the text to their life. After a few minutes of reflection, ask the group to share their thoughts. Point out some ways that the group and/or your congregation might be living out the calling of the text. Think about and discuss other ways you could answer that call.

If the group needs some help getting started with this discussion:

- What does it mean that God is “not partial and takes no bribe”?
- What does justice for orphans and widows look like? How can we be part of God’s justice for those experiencing injustice?
- What does it mean for us to love the stranger?
- What great and awesome things have you seen God do in your life? In the life of someone you know? In your community? In the world?

Turn your attention to the Personal Care Kit samples. Take a moment to open one and look at the supplies inside. Share a story about someone who received one of LWR’s Personal Care Kits (you can find stories at buildkitsofcare.org/project-promise-in-action). Ask: How might these supplies help someone like this person? How are we loving the stranger and giving justice to the widow and orphan through our Personal Care Kit project?

CLOSE WITH PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank you for simple things we often don’t think about, like soap, a toothbrush and a clean towel. Please be with our neighbors who need these things and with those who will receive these Personal Care Kits we are putting together today. Give us the courage to be your instruments of justice and love to all we meet each day. In Your name we pray, Amen!*

 **GAME**

“What’s in Your Bag?”

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

If your group made or is making School Kits and still has empty backpacks, provide one for each team or each person. If not, you can provide any sort of bag, but it must be standard for each person. You can also provide a collection of assorted household items, such as kitchen tools or video game controllers, that participants can choose from when packing their backpack. This activity can also be done by each group making lists; in this case, provide pen/pencil and paper for each participant.

PLAYING THE GAME

Read aloud to the group the following scenario:

You are living on a farm that has been in your family for 150 years. A severe drought over the past 18 months has jeopardized your livelihood and safety. You are given short notice of an opportunity to take a bus to a refugee camp in another country where food is accessible and your family can start anew. You have only two minutes to grab whatever you can put into your backpack.

Give individuals or teams exactly two minutes to either fill up their backpack with items lying around or make a list of the things they would bring that would fit in a small backpack. After two minutes, have groups share their lists and talk about why they prioritized certain items.

For a second round, pair up individuals or teams. Tell them that when they arrive at the bus, they are told to consolidate their two backpacks into one. They must work with their teammates to consolidate their bags.

After this round, consider how many items included in Personal Care Kits made it through.

 **CRAFT**

Human Dignity Collage or Mural

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

If you are creating a collage, make sure you have enough magazines and newspapers on hand to cut pictures out of. If you are creating a mural with paint, make sure you have the right kind of medium, brushes and other tools, and that you are well prepared to clean up.

Freed in Christ, we are now free to work in the world to ensure God-given human dignity for all people. Talk with your group about what steals dignity from people and what gives dignity to people and how we as disciples of Jesus can play an important role in that. Collect stories and images from magazines, newspapers and online that represent things that take away human dignity (such as war, hunger and poverty) as well as ways God gives us to restore human dignity (such as food, education and community). Use these images to create collages to display in the area where you will be assembling your Personal Care Kits.

You can also do this by painting a mural as a group to put on display and share with your whole congregation.





REFORMATION MOMENT

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.

A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

—Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*

The above quote is one of Luther's most powerful and informs so much of how Lutherans are called to live out their life of discipleship. With your group, discuss how this quote informs your work to help deliver on the gift of God-given human dignity to all people. Do we engage in this out of some sense of obligation? Do we engage in this freely out of a love for our neighbor and all of God's creation? What difference does Jesus' life, death and resurrection make in how we are truly free to work on behalf of the well-being of others? Challenge your group to think about how they might restate Luther's quote to tell people who have never heard it before. You can also encourage a book discussion by reading the entirety of *The Freedom of a Christian* during your season of assembling Personal Care Kits.



LITANY OF BLESSING FOR PERSONAL CARE KITS

(Using text from Psalm 145)

Leader: The eyes of all look to you, O God,

Congregation: And you give them their food at the proper time.

L: You open your hand and satisfy our needs;

C: You satisfy the desire of every living thing.

L: God, we offer these Personal Care Kits for your blessing,

C: That they will serve as instruments of care for our neighbors in need.

L: Bless the toothbrushes and soap,

C: That they will brighten the smiles and lives of those who receive them.

L: Bless the combs and nail clippers,

C: That they will help restore the dignity of those who have lost everything.

L: Bless the towels,

C: That they will clean and care for families in need.

L: We give you thanks for all that you have given us to care for as stewards of creation.

C: Now bless these gifts for your people.

CLOSING PRAYER

L: God of abundance, we dedicate these kits in your name, for our neighbors' good and for our world. May those who receive these gifts know your deep love for them and for all people. Bless the items in these Personal Care Kits and ensure that they help meet the needs of our neighbors around the world. Watch over those who will receive these materials, that their dignity might be upheld and their worth be made clear. Let health and healing spring forth in many communities as a result of these gifts. And may all be done to your glory. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

Tracking Your Kits

Want to know where in the world your LWR Project Promise Kits go? With LWR's Quilt & Kit Tracker, you can find out! Follow the journey of your gifts of love as they make their way around the world.



1 LOG ON to the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker and find your congregation.



2 PRINT out a special barcode to put on your boxes of Quilts & Kits.



3 TRACK your Kits online as they travel overseas to people in need!

Visit buildkitsofcare.org/track-my-kits for printable instructions and a Quilt & Kit Tracker video tutorial.



Shipping or Delivering Your Kits

Include the name and address of your congregation on each box, and label contents clearly.

Deliver your boxes to an LWR Ingathering near you. Visit ingathering.lwr.org to find out if and when a truck might be coming to your neck of the woods to collect quilts and kits.

You can also deliver or ship your boxes prepaid to one of LWR's warehouses:

Lutheran World Relief
398 East Richmond Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651.457.9009

Lutheran World Relief
601 Main Street
PO Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776
410.635.8795

Getting Your Kits Delivered to Someone in Need

It costs LWR approximately \$1.30 to send one Baby Care Kit to a family in need, as one example. By covering these costs, you strengthen your support of LWR in helping to ship more than 65,000 Baby Care Kits each year. Encourage members to sponsor a School Kit, Baby Care Kit or Personal Care Kit as a great way to get the rest of your congregation involved in your group's work to assemble Kits of Care.

To send your congregation's gifts for LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, go to buildkitsofcare.org/donate, call **800.597.5972** or mail a check to:

Lutheran World Relief
Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund
P.O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

Specify Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund when making your gift.