

Backpack Day

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

PURPOSE AND VISION

As a new school year begins, many families in your community are facing real needs. For some, even basic school supplies are out of reach.

Backpack Day is a simple way for your church to respond. Meet a real need, build a relationship, and open the door to the gospel.

Through this effort, your congregation can step into your community in a tangible, relational way. What starts as a backpack can lead to conversations, trust, and ongoing ministry.

Whether your church is already engaged in compassion ministry or looking for a clear place to begin, Backpack Day provides a practical next step.

Because when the Church shows up with compassion, people experience more than help. They encounter hope.

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There are many meaningful ways to meet tangible needs and point people to Jesus, regardless of your church's size. If your church is already engaged in compassion ministry, we hope Backpack Day gives you a fresh opportunity to go deeper. If you are still looking for a starting point, download our free [backpack ministry guide](#) or consider one of these options:

- > **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** Restock school supplies for children in need. Most local schools have a list of children on assisted meal plans and can tell you the number of students, their age range, and the supplies needed by grade. Items could include paper, pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, erasers, notebooks, folders, and more.
- > **FOSTER CARE:** Foster and adoptive families often need practical support when a child comes into their home. Pack backpacks with new socks, underwear, hats, gloves, pajamas, shoes, small toys, and books—sorted by gender and age range. Connect with your local county office for child and family services to confirm what is needed most.
- > **FOOD RELIEF:** Pack non-perishable food items for children who lose access to meals when school is out. Consider distributing to families in your neighborhood or partnering with a local food bank to find out what items would be most helpful.
- > **SHELTERS:** Reach out to a local women's or children's shelter. Ask about their schedule and current needs. Items for women could include travel-size toiletries, hairbrushes, hair accessories, socks, and warm hats. If the shelter houses children, ask about age ranges and pack accordingly.



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