

The “Journey Home Bag” - Belinda Jobe

The Concept

Time and time again, I saw a homeless person that was in obvious need of help, but I had nothing for them. Sometimes I would hand \$5 out the window for a cheap lunch, but then wondered what they would do with the money. I decided to order some Bibles and put a copy of my testimony in there to encourage them. I added a bible verse on a card, and sometimes gave them water and granola bars. I just wanted to be ready when I saw someone that God put on my heart to help. I researched and found that people were putting together these backpacks for homeless people. It can cost \$20 just for the backpack and another \$10 or so for full size toiletry products. I realized that there could be a cheaper option by using a used canvas bag and picking up full sized items at the Dollar Store.



I am probably like you, sometimes I see someone on the side of the road and I feel compelled to help them. I realize that having been personally set free from the bondage of alcohol by God, I want others to know that Jesus can set them free too. We all have sinned and gone astray, homeless people are the social lepers of this world. There are many reasons people become homeless, death of income provider, illness, U.S. Veterans with PTSD, and addiction. The largest group of people becoming homeless are families. Many are living in their car because of their inability to pay their bills. I see this bag full of toiletries and a Bible as a way to help some of them return to the Father, just like the prodigal son.

There are many scriptures in the bible that resonate with me, but one really got to me in Luke 15:20, ***“So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”*** God just wants His children to return to Him with a humble heart that is sorry for their sins, and He is faithful to receive them with open arms.

This is a simple way to extend the love of God - without spending a lot of money. You can use a canvas bag with a \$1 bible and a handwritten note that tells someone, “God sees you, and He loves you.” Ask them their name and offer to pray for them, it will not go unappreciated.

Examples of the kinds of things included are:

- A Bible – preferably large print (\$1 reader glasses are available at the Dollar Store)
- A few specialized clothing items - watch caps, gloves, socks, etc.
- Survival gear - duct tape, emergency ‘space’ blankets, hand warmers, etc.
- Hygiene items - toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, hairbrush, etc.
- Food - eating utensils, cans of food, power bars, bottled water, etc.