

Go Bags: Preparing for Disasters with Purpose and Faith

By Pastor Ed Anderson

What is a Go Bag?

A **Go Bag**, also known as a **Bug-Out Bag (BOB)** or **Emergency Kit**, is a portable kit containing essential items you need to survive for at least 72 hours in the event of a disaster or emergency. Designed for quick access and mobility, a Go Bag is crucial for scenarios requiring immediate evacuation or when sheltering in place is no longer safe.

Essential Items for Your Go Bag

1. **Water and Hydration:**
 - At least 3 liters of water per person
 - Water purification tablets or a portable filter
2. **Food and Nutrition:**
 - Non-perishable food items (energy bars, dried fruits, nuts)
 - Manual can opener (if including canned goods)
3. **Clothing and Shelter:**
 - Change of clothes and sturdy shoes
 - Emergency blanket or sleeping bag
 - Lightweight tarp or poncho
4. **First Aid and Hygiene:**
 - Comprehensive first aid kit
 - Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer)
5. **Tools and Equipment:**
 - Multi-tool or knife
 - Flashlight with extra batteries
 - Waterproof matches or a lighter
 - Duct tape and rope
6. **Communication and Navigation:**
 - Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
 - Whistle
 - Local maps and compass

7. Personal Documents and Cash:

- Copies of identification, insurance, and important documents
- Emergency contact information
- Cash in small denominations

8. Special Needs Items:

- Medications and prescriptions
- Infant and pet supplies (if applicable)
- Eyeglasses or contact lenses

Using the Go Bag Checklist

1. Regular Review and Updates:

- Periodically check expiration dates on food, water, and medications.
- Update documents and contact information as needed.
- Adjust items based on seasonal changes or family needs.

2. Personalization:

- Customize the Go Bag for each family member, considering age, health, and specific requirements.
- Include comfort items, such as a favorite book or toy for children, to reduce stress during emergencies.

3. Practice and Familiarization:

- Conduct regular drills with your family to ensure everyone knows how to access and use their Go Bags.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of essential items and practice using tools like water filters and first aid kits.

The Biblical Importance of Preparedness

1. Stewardship of God's Gifts:

- **Proverbs 27:12:** "The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty."
- God calls us to be wise stewards of the resources and knowledge He provides, ensuring we can care for ourselves and others in times of crisis.

2. Providing for Our Families:

- **1 Timothy 5:8:** “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- Preparing a Go Bag is a tangible expression of our responsibility to protect and provide for our families.

3. Serving Others in Times of Need:

- **Galatians 6:2:** “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”
- A well-prepared Go Bag equips us to assist not only our families but also neighbors and strangers, demonstrating Christ’s love in action.

4. Trusting in God While Taking Action:

- **James 2:17:** “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”
- Preparing for emergencies does not indicate a lack of faith but rather a proactive partnership with God, trusting Him while using the wisdom He imparts to take practical steps for our safety.

Conclusion: Preparedness as a Lifestyle

Building and maintaining a Go Bag is more than a physical exercise—it is a spiritual discipline rooted in biblical principles. By preparing for disasters, you honor God’s call to stewardship, protect your families, serve your communities, and strengthen your trust in His provision.

As you gather supplies and plan for the unexpected, we remind ourselves of God’s sovereignty and our role in His kingdom as caretakers of His creation and ambassadors of His love.