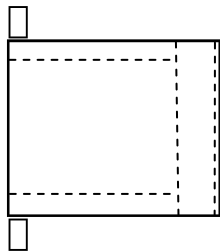




Lutheran  
World  
Relief



## How to make a drawstring backpack

The finished size: 14" Wide x 17" High.  
(within 1/2 to 1" - either measurement is fine)

### MATERIALS:

1. Cut sturdy fabric into rectangle using the following suggested materials: light-weight denim, canvas, twill, corduroy (upholstery material may be used **but no drapery material**)
2. One piece of strong cord/rope 4 yards total - (1/4" in diameter). If using nylon cord, be sure to burn the ends to prevent fraying.

### 1. GET READY

- Cut sturdy fabric into rectangle 38" L x 15" W
- Cut two pieces of fabric 2" x 4" for two loops.
- Cut two sturdy 2 yard cords (total 4 yards) for drawstring.

### 2. SEW

- Fold the edge of large fabric 1/2" in on all sides and stitch a narrow hem the entire way around.
- Fold down 1 1/2" at each short end and stitch to form a casing for the drawstring. (Stitch close to folded end as well as the bottom of the casing.)
- To make loops: Fold in half lengthwise, then fold each cut edge into the center fold. Stitch lengthwise.
- Fold bag in half with wrong sides of material together. Insert a loop on each side between the two layers at the bottom of the bag so they will be sewn into the seam. Stitch along outside from casing seam to bottom fold.

### 3. DRAWSTRING

- Run cord through the casing beginning and ending on the same side and through the same side loop. Repeat, beginning and ending on the opposite side.
- Tie ends of string with an overhand knot above the loop.

## Tips and Alternatives

- Used or repurposed fabric in the recommended materials (i.e., recycled jeans) may be used – absolutely no stains, holes or tears
- You may also serge the inside edges rather than hemming. If you choose to do so, be sure to reinforce the stress points over the loop tabs and top corners.
- Tip: if you will be making multiple bags, consider making a cardboard template to speed up the cutting process!
- Tip: if you have trouble finding cord, check your local hardware or dollar store for a spool of cotton, polyester or nylon clothesline (about 1/4" in diameter). It is inexpensive and you can easily cut the line to the length you need. If you choose nylon cord, be sure to melt the ends to keep them from raveling.
- Alternative Fabric Straps instructions
  - Cut 2 pieces of fabric (same material as bag) 2 yards by 3".
  - As with loops in step 2, fold in half lengthwise, then fold each cut edge into the center fold. Stitch lengthwise.
  - Fold each raw end 1/4", then fold again and stitch to secure. Reinforce for sturdiness.
  - Repeat for second strap. Thread straps through casing as in step 3.