



Video Session #4: Making the Circle Bigger Creating Inclusive Communities

As you begin

Share something with the rest of the group that has impacted you from our last session or your own continued exploration of the subject.

When you are the newcomer in a school, a town, a neighborhood, or a workplace, what factors need to be in place for you to have confidence to engage and contribute?

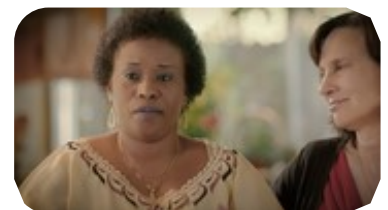
What factors can make it more difficult to integrate into a new situation?

When you think about engaging with people who have come to this country through refugee resettlement, what scares you the most?

What excites you the most?

Read **Matthew 25:34-36**.

Why do you think Jesus chose to identify with the stranger?



Watch the video

Time: 19:42

Trainer: Traci Harrod—Refuge Connections

Talk it over

As compassionate human beings, most of us have a deep desire to extend friendship to our neighbors who have crossed international borders in search of safety and peace. What are some of the barriers that hold us back from carrying out our good intentions to personally engage with

people who are resettling here?

As a group, make a list of these barriers.

From the list, choose 2 or 3 that affect you personally and share those with the group.
What have you learned so far that might help you to get past those barriers?

Our relationships and friendships need to be mutual: everyone teaches and everyone learns.
What are some things we might learn from people who are on the resettlement journey?

Moving forward together

Make a specific plan together for how you can faithfully...

...pray humbly – for displaced people around the world, for new families resettling in your community, for your own hearts as you seek to reflect the heart of Jesus;

...learn constantly – intentionally pursue learning through research, workshops, training, and mentoring;

...make your circle bigger – look for ways to make your churches, your homes, your lives more welcoming and inclusive to people from all backgrounds;

...build relationships (not programs) – look for opportunities to engage with people in ways that build mutual, long-term, dignity giving friendships.

Take time to brainstorm ways to achieve each of these goals

Next steps

Choose at least one part of your group's plan to personally pursue this week.

Read Proverbs 31:8 - 9. How do these verses apply to the people we heard from in the video?

Check out the website for further resources or to apply for a grant: www.theriseproject.com.

Further questions or comments? Contact Traci Harrod, the trainer for this segment at traci@theriseproject.com.

"The best thing anyone ever did for me, when I first arrived in the USA...was to invite me over for dinner."

- "Omar" from Saudi Arabia

In appreciation

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To all the families and individuals in this series who described their experiences of building significant intercultural relationships with each other and for their joy in sharing. “I was a stranger...and you invited me in....”

