



Enlarging the Circle to Welcome Everyone

Video Session #3: More Than a Refugee Understanding the Resettlement Journey

As you begin

When you hear the word “refugee,” what images come into your mind?

The following facts and definitions describe people who have left their homes. Which of these interests or surprises you the most?

Fact A

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, 65.3 million people were *forcibly* displaced from their homes in 2015. Of those, 21.3 million were refugees, 40.8 million were internally displaced persons, and 3.2 million were asylum seekers (see definitions below).

Fact B

Less than 1% of people defined as refugees in the world are “resettled,” or given the opportunity to start over in a new country like the U.S.

Fact C

Over 50% of people defined as refugees in the world are children under 18 years of age.

Fact D

The U.S. refugee resettlement program involves a more rigorous screening and security process than any other for people admitted to the U. S.

DEFINITIONS

Immigrants - People who have chosen to move to another country and settle there, often in search of safety, work or educational opportunities for their children.

Refugees - People who have fled their home country due to persecution based on race, religion,

nationality, social group, or political opinion. People who have come to the U.S. with refugee status have been granted permission to enter the country and to work upon arrival.

Internally Displaced Persons – People who have fled their homes due to persecution but are still within the borders of their home country.

Asylum Seekers - People who have fled their home country due to persecution and apply for protection in another country after they arrive there.

Do you know of any people recorded in the Bible who were forcibly displaced or who would be considered refugees? Consider this list and take a moment to discuss their situations.

Abraham & Sarah –	Genesis 12:10
Lot –	Genesis 14:11,12; Genesis 19:17
Hagar –	Genesis 16:6
Isaac & Rebecca –	Genesis 26:1-3
Jacob –	Genesis 47:4
Joseph –	Genesis 37:28
Moses –	Exodus 2:15; Hebrews 11:27
All of Israel –	Exodus 12:41
Naomi –	Ruth 1:1
Elijah –	1 Kings 17:7-9; 1 Kings 19:3,4
All of Israel –	2 Kings 17:23; 2 Kings 24:14,15
Nehemiah –	Ezra 2:1,2; Nehemiah 1:3,4
David –	1 Samuel 21:10; 1 Samuel 22:1; 1 Samuel 23:13; 1 Samuel 27:1
Esther & Mordecai –	Esther 2:5-7
Jeremiah –	Jeremiah 43:6
Ezekiel –	Ezekiel 1:1
Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego –	Daniel 1:2-4,6
Jesus, Mary & Joseph –	Matthew 2:13,14
The early church –	Acts 8:1; Acts 11:19
Phillip –	Acts 8:4,5
Peter –	Acts 12:17
Aquila and Pricilla –	Acts 18:1, 2



Watch the video

Time: 15:38

Trainer: Traci Harrod—Refuge Connections

Talk it over

After viewing the video, take a moment and ask those in your group to finish these sentences:

Something in the video that surprised me was...

Something that touched me was...

Something that compelled me was...

Emergency announcement

This exercise is an opportunity for you to imagine in a small way what it might be like if you were forced to suddenly leave your home and to ponder the decisions you would have to make. As you listen and reflect, keep in mind that many people who are forcibly displaced have no warning at all before being forced to flee their homes, nor anyone attempting to ensure their safety.

*This is an **** EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT *****

We are sorry to inform you that you must immediately be evacuated from this country as each of your names are currently on a list which places you at very high risk. Your presence in this country also endangers your family. If you do not evacuate, you will be placing your family members in even greater danger.

Due to security concerns, we are not allowed to tell you of your exact destination, only that it is thousands of miles away from your current location.

You have one hour to go to your homes to say goodbye and gather your belongings. You may bring with you as many items as you can fit into a shoebox. We suggest that some of these items be pictures of your family as the trauma of your transition may cause some of your most cherished memories to become less distinct.

You must return in exactly one hour. You may not bring any other persons with you.

Take a few moments to make two lists:

What you would carry with you in the shoebox?

What you would do in the hour you're given?

What were the most difficult decisions for you to make?

For people who are resettling in the U.S., how might the losses they've experienced affect their ability to adjust to life in their new homes?

Write a sentence that describes the progression of emotions you experienced.

Digging deeper

Read together **Deuteronomy 10:17-19** and **Matthew 25:34-40**.

What do these references reveal to us about God's heart toward those who are displaced?

Read **Luke 10:29-37**.

What connections do you notice between this story and the video we just watched?

Rise up for next week

Find out if folks are being resettled in your state/community. You can google "refugee resettlement _____ (name of city or state)."

If you'd like to learn more about the cultural background of a certain group, go to <http://www.culturalorientation.net/learning/backgrounders> and check out the "Refugee Backgrounders."

Check out the website for other resources and inspiration: www.theriseproject.com.

Watch the following video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBQ-1oHfimQ>

What emotions did you feel? What thoughts ran through your mind?

"How do we make our circles bigger? How do we, together, as a community, reflect the heart of God?"