



Enlarging the Circle to Welcome Everyone

RISE Refugee Video Session #3

Having A Heart for Refugees

As you begin

How would you describe your church's stance towards refugees in your community?

- We are actively helping them in Jesus' name.
- We are glad they're here but don't really know them.
- We don't mind them living here as long as they don't cause trouble or cost us anything.
- Honestly, we liked our community better before they came.
- Refugees? What refugees? I don't see any refugees!

Watch the video

Time: 11:55

Trainer: James Litsey—The Welcome Project

Talk it over

We know Jesus came to save men from every tribe, so why does loyalty to our tribe often compete with loyalty to our Savior?

In 1 Peter 2:9-10, God calls his church a new ethnicity, bound by the blood of Jesus into one family. How has the Holy Spirit equipped your church to live that out in your community?

How has he equipped you, personally, to help fulfill 1 Peter 2:9-10?

Digging Deeper

Read Revelation 7:9-13. The word translated “nation” here doesn’t correspond to our modern concept of “country.” It comes from the same word from which we get our word “ethnicity.” So John didn’t see representatives of every country worshiping before throne, but representatives from every group of people, (whether grouped by culture, language, or biological ancestry) worshiping before the throne. Which is a more powerful vision, seeing every country represented in heaven or seeing every people group represented in heaven? Why?

Matthew 29:19 commands us to make disciples of all nations (same word again!). How are Matt. 28:19 and Rev. 7:9-13 related? How do they relate to welcoming strangers?

Prayer points

Praise God for the glimpse of heaven he gave us in Revelation 7:9.

Do you have any fears to overcome? Confessing fear can help defeat it. If you need to repent of anything, do so.

Ask God what he wants from your church concerning those with refugee status who live in your town.

Next steps

What specifically are you going to do about this? Write one action step that you can complete this week.

Not sure how to answer? No problem. With whom will you start praying for an answer?

Rise up for next week

Do your action step.

Spend some time checking out the resources on refugees at www.theriseproject.com

Further questions or comments? Contact James Litsey, the trainer for this segment at james@theriseproject.com.

