

# Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy

## What does the Bible reveal to us about God's heart for, and desired response to, the foreigner/refugee?

Deuteronomy 10:19 (NIV)

And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Jeremiah 22:3-5 (NIV)

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. 'For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David's throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. 'But if you do not obey these commands, declares the Lord, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.'"

Zechariah 7:8-10 (NIV)

And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah: "'This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. "Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'

Isaiah 16:4 (NIV)

Let the Moabite fugitives stay with you; be their shelter from the destroyer. The oppressor will come to an end, and destruction will cease; the aggressor will vanish from the land.

Matthew 2:13-14 (NIV)

(referencing Jesus as a refugee) "[T]he angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt."

Matthew 7:12 (RSV)

"Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:39 (RSV)

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

But who is my neighbor? This is the very question Jesus was asked in Luke 10:29. He responded with the story of the Good Samaritan and taught us that our neighbor is anyone who is in need, even our enemies (as Jews and Samaritans were).

Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ' For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ' I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' " Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' " When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' " When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Hebrews 13:1-2 (NIV)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'

## What can we do?

Educate yourself and then educate your friends and family about who refugees and immigrants are and why they need our advocacy. Share with others how you are responding to the current refugee and immigrant crisis as a follower of Jesus.

### Current Immigration Advocacy:

- Visit <https://www.raicestexas.org> to learn more about work on the ground in Texas with families being detained. Make a donation to their [Family Reunification and Bond Fund](#).
- Write or call your [Senators](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) ([https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)) and [Representatives](https://www.house.gov/representatives) (<https://www.house.gov/representatives>). Invite your family to participate in advocating.

### Refugee and Resettlement Support:

- Visit [World Relief](http://www.worldrelief.org/us-offices) ([www.worldrelief.org/us-offices](http://www.worldrelief.org/us-offices)) where you'll find a number of ways you can make a real difference both in the US and around the world.
- Join in the Grace Refugee Initiative (in Indy). Contact Julie Pappas ([julieannepappas@gmail.com](mailto:julieannepappas@gmail.com)) to get involved through Trinity.
- Get involved at Exodus Refugee Immigration (here in Indy) by welcoming refugees from all over the world. They are always in need of household donations for newly arriving individuals, financial support for their programs, and volunteers to be an American friend and mentor. Visit [exodusrefugee.org/](http://exodusrefugee.org/) for information and to get involved.

Connect with the Missional Engagement Team at Trinity for more connections - [engagement@indytrinity.org](mailto:engagement@indytrinity.org).

Pray for refugees and immigrants all over the world.