



SERIES BIG IDEA

Conversations can help us understand the many facets of a tough topic, which can lead to us better understand the heart of God as we seek to help others find their way back to him.

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 10:17–19, Psalm 146

ICE BREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Use this time to get everyone comfortable with the topic and ease into discussing their lives.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

The Deuteronomy passages says that caring for the vulnerable is part of God's nature—it's who he is. Psalm 146 underscores this: God provides help to the oppressed, prisoners, foreigners, orphans, and widows.

Deuteronomy 10:19 makes it clear that because this is God's nature, it should also be part of his followers' nature. It says, we "must show love to foreigners," as God reminds his people that they were once foreigners themselves. Of all people, God's people should be able to relate to refugees.

LIFE APPLICATION

As Matt Soerens explains in the video, there are many appropriate concerns and fears about refugees settling in the US. Some are concerned about our safety. Some wonder if we should take care of our own problems before trying to help outsiders. Some worry about the financial cost of caring for refugees.

Some fears about refugees, however, arise from misconceptions. For instance, there is a misconception that there is no or very little vetting for refugees. In reality, the vetting process for refugees is the most thorough vetting for any visitors to the US, allowing only one-half of one percent of all refugees to enter. (Of the 65 million refugees in the world, the US welcomed just 85,000 last year.) Since this vetting process began in 1980, over 3 million refugees have been resettled in the US and none have taken the life of a US citizen in a terrorist attack. Though the system isn't perfect, the common concerns don't reflect its great record.

When thinking of how the church might help refugees, consider the Golden Rule. If you were to arrive at an airport in an unfamiliar country, not knowing the language, starting over in life, how would you want to be treated? Allow your group some time to imagine creative ways the church could help.

CHALLENGE

Many of us feel the tension between compassion for refugees and concerns about the risk of welcoming them to the US. Even in that tension, though, God calls us to help. The best way to do that may first to become more educated about the situation. Encourage your group members to explore the books *Welcoming the Stranger* and *Seeking Refuge*. They can also find a free 7-day devotional based on *Seeking Refuge* on the YouVersion app.