

Coming Close to the Heart of Refugees

MISSION OBJECTIVES

- A. I will learn more about the challenges of living as a refugee.
- B. I will listen to someone's transition story of his or her life as a refugee.

(Note to group leader: Prepare carefully in advance for the *Loss Simulation* as described below under *Discovery and Discussion*.)

TEAM CARE AND ACCOUNTABILITY (20 Minutes)

1. Share something you learned from your *Cultural Study*.
2. Tell about any experiences you have had in following up on your international contacts. (Keep updating and referring to your *Contact Log*.)
3. What did you learn from study #2 in *My Favorite Missionary* and the video clips?
4. What needs or challenges are you facing that we can pray for?
5. Pray together especially for each other and the people from other cultures that you have met.

PRESENTATION (23:46 Minutes)

Watch: *Coming Close to the Heart of Refugees*

DISCOVERY AND DISCUSSION (30 Minutes)

1. How do you feel after watching *Coming Close to the Heart of Refugees* and what did you learn?
2. When did you, your family, or ancestors move to this country and why did they come?

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3. Read Leviticus 19:33-34. What kind of actions and attitudes do you think demonstrate what it means to treat the stranger as someone born among you and to love him or her as yourself?
4. Read Matthew 2:13-15 and 8:20. What are some of the ways that Jesus experienced what refugees and immigrants go through that you can see in these texts and at other times in His life?

Loss Simulation

Choose one leader from your team to prepare the *Loss Simulation* activity. No one else should read the handout until after the activity has been completed.

ASSIGNMENTS (5 Minutes)

1. What have you learned today and how will you use it this week?
2. What will you do this week to follow up on your friendships with the people you met last week from other countries? Use the *Contact Log* for each individual. (If you have not made a contact that you can follow up on, go back to the ideas from week #1 to make sure you are developing a new friendship with someone of another culture who is not a Christian.)
3. Read over *Field Activity-Listen to Their Moving Stories*. Discuss together how you will find refugees to talk with. If appropriate and possible, take someone with you who is not part of your team yet, so they can catch the vision for this ministry as well. After completing the interview, write your response paper so you can share with your team next week.
4. Mobilize and Multiply. Share with a friend or family member what you learned about refugees. Encourage him or her to watch one of the video clips that touched you or to visit a refugee with you.
5. Watch at least one of the following video clips to learn more about the experience of refugees (check online for updates):

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- A) Ms. Tara Vang tells the huge impact church members made on her refugee family (GYC). Start at 15:53.
 - B) Three friends from Iowa, Missouri, and the world share, “Refugees, Pain and Trauma Dealing with Everyday Life” (3ABN)
 - C) Pastor Desta describes the journey from Ethiopia to Minnesota and how to help refugees adjust (ASAP Ministries)
 - D) See what God’s people are doing around the world to help refugees.
6. Complete study #3 in *My Favorite Missionary* and focus your prayers on “Refugees” in *Praying for the World Next Door*.
7. Complete the form: *Field Report #3*.

TEAM PRAYER (10 Minutes)

Pray together for your visits with refugees to touch their hearts and bring encouragement; for the many displaced people throughout the world; for the soon coming of Jesus to end all suffering.

Promises to Claim:

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).*
- *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men [women], for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men [women] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4).*
- *It is in this speck of a world, in the souls that He gave His only-begotten Son to save, that His interest and the interest of all heaven is centered. God is bending from His throne to hear the cry of the oppressed. To every sincere prayer He answers, “Here am I.” He uplifts the distressed and downtrodden. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. In every temptation and every trial, the angel of his presence is near to deliver (Desire of Ages 356).*

Giving Opportunities and Volunteer Possibilities.

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If you would like to volunteer overseas or help financially, here are some organizations that work with refugees: adra.org, adventisthelp.org, asapministries.org, impact-hope.org, refugeeministries.org.

It is possible that you will meet refugees from one of the language groups that have many Christians among them already. For example, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists is coordinating work among a number of groups such as those from Myanmar (Burma) and Central Africa which have many Seventh-day Adventists among them. You can find out which groups already have *Church Planting Consultants* and get advice and support from them as needed. (See list at www.refugeeministries.org/church-planting-consultants.)

Do not be surprised if the people group you are trying to help has no consultant. That simply confirms what these lessons show—there are many unreached groups that we must now focus on. At the time of this writing Terri Saelee is the coordinator for Adventist Refugee and Immigrants Ministries. (Contact address: terrisaelee@nadadventist.org.)