

# REFUGEE SUNDAY

Sunday school Lesson Plan for Teachers

Theme: "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me..."



## BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 25:35

Jesus came down, born of his mother, Mary, and gave his life for us so that we may live with God in peace and harmony. One day, Jesus will return to earth to gather all of his people whom he loves dearly and take us to a place where there is no suffering or crying.

In this verse, Jesus tells his disciples that when he returns for his people, he will know who his sheep are by how they treated others. Jesus says he will know his people because they did the following for him:

- Gave him food when he was hungry
- Gave him water when he was thirsty
- **Welcomed him in as he was a stranger**
- Gave him clothes when he did not have any
- Visited him when he was sick
- Visited him when he was in prison

However, the disciples are confused. When did they feed Jesus when he was hungry? Or give him a drink? **When was he a stranger to them?** When did they give him clothes when he didn't have any? When was he sick and they had to visit him? When was he in prison?

When they asked Jesus these questions, he replied, "As you did this for other people, you did it to me." Jesus shows us that by loving one another and serving the vulnerable, poor, less fortunate, the sick and hungry, the dying and incarcerated, we actually serve and love Him.

**"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me..."** a sign to show that we are God's people is to care for the foreigners and those who are in need of help. This includes the refugees. How we treat them, matters to God. In his eyes, when we love them, clothe them, and care for them, we love God.

*"As you did this for other people, you did it to me."*

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." 37*

*Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

Memory Verse **Matthew 25:35-40**

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## QUESTIONS

### IN THIS PASSAGE, WHO WAS THE STRANGER?

#### Potential Answers:

- Jesus was the stranger.
- However, Jesus represented all of the vulnerable people who were in need. The refugee could therefore be a stranger.

### CAN YOU THINK OF PRACTICAL WAYS THAT WE CAN HELP REFUGEES AND WELCOME THEM IN TO OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS?

#### Potential Answers:

- We can invite them over for a meal
- We can give them some of our things (food, clothing, other items that they may need that we have and can give to them)

## TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

God cares very deeply for the needs of those who are refugees. We, as Jesus' children, are called to love on the refugees and the vulnerable. By treating them with love, we are also loving God.



If God cares for the stranger,  
so should we!

If someone is hungry  
and thirsty, we should: .....

How do we care  
for the refugee  
who is new to our  
community? .....

Why is it important  
to care for refugees? .....

God I pray: .....