



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Welcoming the Stranger: A Bible Study

Begin by reading the following passages:

Leviticus 19:33-34

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Matthew 2:13-15a

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you: for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod."

Matthew 25:34-37a, 40

Then this king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when ...?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Then consider these questions:

1. What are some of the central messages conveyed in these scriptures?
2. How does God view strangers? How does God expect us to treat strangers and aliens?
3. Why did Joseph take Mary and their child, Jesus, into Egypt? How important was it for them to have a place such as Egypt to go to?
4. Who in the Bible was a refugee?* What were they running from? How were they received in the countries to which they fled? How were their circumstances similar to or different from those of modern refugees?
5. Jesus identifies with those in need. How are we to respond?
6. How do these scriptures relate to church involvement in refugee ministries?

* Jesus, David, Moses, Paul, the nation of Israel, early church believers, the Apostle John ...

Bible study is drawn from the study guide to the United Church of Christ video "In the Eyes of a Stranger."

Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program: www.churchworldservice.org/immigration