

### World Refugee Day for Sabbath June 21, 2025

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#### Opening Remarks / Introduction

Matthew 25:35-40 – Jesus said – **“I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes,”**

- Every year - June 20<sup>th</sup> is celebrated globally as World Refugee Day - which was yesterday.
  - **Does anyone know about World Refugee Day and what it’s all about?** – World Refugee Day is an international day chosen by the United Nations to honour and celebrate the strength and resilience of refugees worldwide. It’s a time to raise awareness about the plight of millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence. The day also serves as a call to action, urging individuals and organisations to support refugees and work towards finding lasting solutions to their situations.
  - **Can anyone tell me who is a refugee?** – A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their home country due to fear of being harmed. They are usually unable and or unwilling to return to their country because of that fear and is therefore seeking safety to live in another country.
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#### Refugees in the Bible

Many people in the Bible were refugees in different ways – can you think of anyone from the Bible who was a refugee?

A few examples of Refugees in the Bible:

- Jacob - when he ran away from his brother
  - Joseph - when he was sold into slavery
  - Joseph’s family - when they moved to Egypt because of famine
  - The Israelites - when they fled Egypt
  - Naomi and her family - moved to Moab because of famine in Bethlehem
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**Show children video – My Name is Not Refugee** – Click on the link

[https://youtu.be/\\_xymro9fuQo?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/_xymro9fuQo?feature=shared)

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How do you think God wants us to treat refugees? What do you think you can do to help refugees?

One thing that everyone can do and that God wants us to do - is to **Be KIND!**

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There are many texts in the Bible which instructs us to be kind. One of them is found in Ephesians 4:32 which says we are to ***be kind and compassionate*** to one another.

Can you think of a time when you were in a difficult situation and someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel? Even if they couldn't fix everything for you, their kindness made you feel loved and special and happy and peaceful. Somebody cared about you. And that was amazing!

Imagine you are a refugee. You have to leave your home and your country. You have to walk away from friends, and maybe even family. All you can take with you is what you can carry in a few carrier bags or a backpack. What would you take with you? Clothes, school books, toys, food, a blanket, some photographs? What would you leave behind? Probably a lot of things that you would never see again.

Then you and your family make a very long and difficult journey. Every day you wake up in a different place. You have to find water to drink. You don't know what you will eat, or where you will sleep tonight. And then someone is kind to you. Someone gives your family a ride for a few miles. Or a restaurant owner invites you into her cafe and gives you all a free dinner and a wonderful dessert! Perhaps someone notices that your shoes are wearing out and they give you a new pair. Or they invite you to sleep in a real bed in their own home! Wow! The world feels much better when people are kind! You can rest for a little bit, and smile, and enjoy the food. And most of all you know that someone has seen your suffering and they want you to feel loved.

Kindness is a super-special experience. Whenever we are kind the love ripples out from our heart and touches other people. It makes them feel loved and special. They will probably never forget what you did, even if you just smiled, or gave them a glass of water, a bar of chocolate, some fuzzy socks, or a fun toy. **The great thing is we can all be kind.** Whenever we do something that makes another person feel better, or makes their life more comfortable and safe, it blesses them and it makes you feel good too.

Remember when you are kind to others – you are showing them God's love.

## Children Story Idea



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Let us pray today for all the refugees around the world and for God to help us and everyone to be KIND to the refugees.