



Sermon outline

Introduction

- Sometimes it's easy to overlook those around us – we can get wrapped up in our own lives
 - God sees each individual and wants us to see them too
 - Refugee Week is a perfect opportunity for us to SEE those who are new to our country
- We can see and value:
 - Them as individuals
 - The rich heritage and culture that they bring
 - Their accomplishments, skills and experience
 - How does God see those who are new to Australia? How does he ask us to respond to them?

Set the scene

- The Israelites had experienced what it was like to be foreigners, enslaved and mistreated in Egypt
- Following their Exodus from Egypt, God provided instructions

to inform how they lived and worshipped

- The commands that were given often included mention of foreigners

God instructed people to treat foreigners with love

“Don’t mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God”
(Leviticus 19:33–34, CEV).

- Consider how you, as a community of God’s people, show love to those who are new to Australia
- Challenge each individual to think of at least one new way they can show love to someone who is new to Australia

God instructed people to provide for foreigners

“When you harvest your grain, always leave some of it standing around the edges of your fields and don’t pick up what falls on the ground. Leave it for the poor and for those foreigners who live among you. I am the Lord your God!”
(Leviticus 23:22, CEV).

- Consider referring to the story of Ruth and Boaz in Ruth 2 as an example of how this happened
- Australia is often referred to as the ‘Lucky Country’

- Many Australians have ALL their NEEDS met and many of their WANTS
- What has God given to you/us?
- Consider how you, as a community of God’s people, can share what you have with those who are new to Australia
- Challenge each individual to think of at least one new way they can show love to someone who is new to Australia

God instructed people to treat everyone with the same standards

“I am the Lord your God, and I demand equal justice both for you Israelites and for those foreigners who live among you”
(Leviticus 24:22, CEV).

- Note that this verse was in the context of obeying laws and suffering the same consequences
- The underlying concept is that everyone is treated equitably

- Consider how you, as a community of God’s people, can work together to create more equitable standards for refugees
- Challenge each individual to think of at least one new way they can treat someone who is new to Australia more fairly

Recap the main points and give an opportunity for everyone to share their responses:

- What stood out to you in this message?
- How is God asking you to respond to refugees in Australia?

- Is there something you will do differently?
- Ask everyone to write down their responses and/or share their responses in small groups