

Sermon Outline

This sermon outline is made to supplement the Catalyst Guide, especially the Theological Underpinning section. This outline is simply a helpful starting point for you to adapt to your context and congregation.

1. Share a Relevant Bible Passage

Share a relevant Bible verse and link this with the topic of the day – refugees. A list of relevant Scriptures are included below. Additionally, the Theological Underpinning section of the Catalyst Guide has an in depth exploration of Biblical concepts regarding refugees.

2. Introduce the concept of community refugee sponsorship

Community refugee sponsorship was first started in Canada over 40 years ago as the result of advocacy from faith groups. Since that time over 325,000 refugees have been settled through the program.

Community refugee sponsorship allows groups of citizens to sponsor and support refugees to settle in their communities. Modelled off Canada, the Australian government have introduced a community refugee sponsorship program right here in Australia called CRISP (Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot).

3. But what is a refugee?

The definition of 'refugee' is clearly defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). All refugees entering Australia via this program have been found by the UNHCR and the Australian Government. This definition is:

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of



persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. (UNHCR)

69% of those displaced across borders come from just five countries: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

4. Refugees are not just a concept – they are people with a name

There are over 100 million forcibly displaced people in the world right now. Each of them has a name. Each of them knit together in their mothers womb by our great God. This is the story of some of them who have made it to Australia through community sponsorship.

[Play The Welcome Home Project Video](#)

5. Provide an application

Connect the story and Bible passage to the lives of your congregation. Celebrate the legacy of the Church in Canada and those who are sponsoring already in Australia. Celebrate the refugees already in your neighbourhoods and the resilience they have.

6. Call to action

Firstly, to pray for refugees world wide, including those being settled into Australia.

Secondly, encourage people to form a group and sponsor a refugee household. Anyone who would like to get involved with community refugee sponsorship can get started at www.welcomehome.org.au



Relevant Bible Passages

Below are a few relevant Bible passages. The Theological Underpinning section of the Catalyst Guide provides more.

New Testament

Matthew 25:31-46 – The Sheep and the Goats

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in' (Matt 25:35)

Connection to refugees

Community refugee sponsorship provides a practical way to welcome the stranger.

Luke 10:25-37 – The Parable of the Good Samaritan

'But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)

Connection to refugees

The Parable of the Good Samaritan calls us to provide practical support to those in need. Maggie Patterson of the Goulburn community refugee sponsorship group states, "The beauty of this is that we don't just say we love our neighbour – but we know our neighbour."

Old Testament

Leviticus 19:34 and Exodus 22:21 – Care for the foreigner

'The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.' – Leviticus 19:34

"Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt." – Exodus 22:21

Connection to refugees

Just as the Israelites were exiled from their homeland, and Jesus forced to flee to Egypt, refugees in the world have been forcibly displaced. We are called to show them a loving welcome.

