



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, April 14, 2024

New Realities

Displaced People

Read/Reflect

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What is the significance of God's instruction for Abram to leave his country and his people (that is, why would God make such a request; see Hebrews 11: 8-10)? What promises does God make in exchange for Abram leaving his land? Are those promises convincing for you to follow God's command?
2. Read the book of Ruth (4 short chapters), or at least review the story of Ruth. What did it take for Ruth to find a home in a foreign land? What was the role of Boaz? If you consider that Naomi is meant to represent all God's people, what is the significance of Ruth 4:16, 17?

Explore

3. The number of forcibly displaced people in the world is estimated at 110 million, caused by a complex of issues like ethnic genocide, civil war, hunger, extreme poverty, drought, and floods all of which are rooted in things like political conflict, religious persecution, violence, human rights violations, development of megaprojects that ruin homes and livelihoods, and environmental factors.
 - What about this, or other, information that you've heard is new to you, surprises you or challenges you?
 - What emotional response do you have to this information?
4. What is your reaction to the displacement of people, to the state of refugees, to immigration and migration?

<input type="checkbox"/> Everybody has their problems	<input type="checkbox"/> Hey, it's a crowded world
<input type="checkbox"/> We could do more	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a government problem
<input type="checkbox"/> Moves me to compassion	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
5. Given the fact that the story of God establishing his salvation involves so much migration (Abraham, Ruth, the whole nation of Israel, Joseph & Mary & Jesus, and that the Bible insists on taking care of "the foreigner in your land," (Exod. 22:21, Deut. 14:28,29; Jer.7:6,7), what might be some biblical wisdom and perspective on modern immigration?

Pray

- Praise God that he is promises to establish us in his kingdom and home (John 14:23).
- Pray that God would stir in your own soul compassion and hospitality towards people who are displaced.
- Pray for people, especially in refugee-producing countries like Syria, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Sudan.