

## A LESSON PLAN ON REFUGEES FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will understand that refugees are people forced from their home countries by life-threatening circumstances, that they come from different countries, and that some of them come to the United States. Students will also discover several charities that serve refugees and think critically about their own opportunities to serve refugees.

**APPROPRIATE FOR:** Ages 5 and up.

### **MATERIALS:**

- Pens or pencils, crayons or markers, and paper
- Bible of choice
- Internet access
- String
- Worksheet (Attached) – 4 copies
- World map or (preferred) globe
- The following books:

Garland, S., & Kiuchi, T. (1997). *The Lotus seed*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Kouanchao, M. (2010). *Mali under the night sky: A Lao story of home*. El Paso, Tex.: Cinco Puntos Press.

Williams, K., & Mohammed, K. (2009). *My name is Sangoel*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

### **DAY 1: Grandma**

1. Discuss: Do you know what a refugee is? What do you think it is? Write a guess. (After discussion, parent explains that a refugee is a person who has been forced out of his or her home country because it was not safe to stay there.)
2. On the same paper, write your best guess answers to the following questions (parent can write for individual child or the group if appropriate):
  - Why do you think people would leave their own countries?
  - How do you think they feel about leaving their country?
  - Which countries do you think refugees go to?
  - What do you think they bring with them to the new country?
3. Read *The Lotus Seed*. Fill out a copy of the attached worksheet, either as a group or each individual. Discuss your answers.
4. Discuss: Why do you think Grandmother took the seed when the bombs started falling, but left other precious things? What would you take if you had to leave quickly?

### **DAY 2: Mali**

1. Review: What is a refugee? In yesterday's story, what did the grandmother bring from Vietnam? Why? What happened to it?

2. Read: *Mali Under the Night Sky*. Fill out another copy of the attached worksheet and discuss your answers. (Note: It is unclear where this family resettled, so it will not be possible to answer that question.)
3. Do you think it was fair for this family to go to jail for not having a home? Why or why not? How do you think Mali felt when she went to jail with her family?
4. Cut string to tie around each other's wrists. As you tie them, share a favorite memory with your family.

#### DAY 3: Sangoel

1. Review: Why did Mali and her family leave Laos? What did she have that reminded her of her memories? What happened to the family after they crossed the river?
2. Read *My name is Sangoel*. Fill out another copy of the attached worksheet and discuss your answers.
3. Discuss: Why was Sangoel's name so important to him? When Sangoel and his family came to the U.S., what did people do that helped them? Why did people mispronounce his name?
4. Use a blank sheet of paper to make a word picture for your own name. Can your family see it?  
 \*\*Sometimes, when we meet someone with a name we haven't heard before it can be hard to pronounce. In those situations, it can be helpful to say, "It's important to me that I say your name correctly. Will you tell it to me again?" A person's name is a precious gift. It is better to learn their name properly than to give up saying it because you're embarrassed, or to give them a nickname that they didn't ask for.

#### DAY 4: Jesus

1. Review: How did Sangoel help others pronounce his name properly?
2. Read Matthew 2. (Parent note: read the passage ahead of time and stop at verse 15 if you feel that the rest will be too emotionally difficult for your child!) Fill out as much as you can of a new copy of the worksheet, with Jesus as the refugee character.
3. Discuss: How was the story of Jesus similar to the stories of the other refugees? How was it different? If God could have come as Jesus into any place and time, why do you think God chose such a dangerous time and place that Jesus' family would have to run away as refugees in the middle of the night?

#### DAY 5: YOU!

1. Review: Look back at your paper from Day 1. What do you know about refugees now that you didn't know on Day 1? Which story was your favorite from this week? What are the sad and happy parts of being a refugee?
2. Read Matthew 25:34-40 and discuss: What do you think Jesus means when he says that what you did for others you did for Him?
3. There are many refugees in the United States right now. Pray and ask God to show you how you are called or able to help someone trying to make a new life!
4. Click the map on this website (<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr>) for more information on programs in your area that help with refugee resettlement. If you would like to help people in refugee camps or other places in the world, check out World Vision (<http://www.worldvision.org/>) for more information.

## Refugee Stories

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Refugee Character(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Character's Home Country (Find on map or globe):

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Character's New Country: \_\_\_\_\_

What the Character Missed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Important Thing the Character Kept: \_\_\_\_\_