



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

## Migration



### Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us consider how the church should respond to migrants.



### “Welcome the stranger”

In the Bible we find God’s concern for the well-being of migrants. Repeatedly, the people of Israel are instructed to remember the strangers among them and treat them with love, compassion and justice. God commands the Israelites not to ill-treat them (Exodus 22:21) and not to take advantage of them (Deuteronomy 24:14). God is concerned and cares for powerless and vulnerable people. Strangers are to be cared for (Leviticus 19:9-10), they are to be treated as fellow citizens (Leviticus 19:34) and given a share from the tithe (Deuteronomy 14:28-29). In the New Testament, Jesus gives a new command to ‘love your neighbour as yourself’ (Matthew 22:39).



### Key points

- We live in a day and age where millions of people wander the earth in search of a better livelihood and hope. The Bible recognises this reality. It contains stories of war and triumph, displacement and pain, frustration and hope. Through it all we can see that God cares for migrants.



### Questions for discussion

#### Acceptance

The body of Christ should **accept** strangers with open arms (Romans 15:7-9) and treat them as equals (Colossians 3:11).

- *What is your attitude to migrants? Do you accept them or reject them?*
- *What are some of the practical ways you can show love to migrants with the resources you already have available?*

#### Hospitality

The church is told to welcome and offer **hospitality** to people in need (Romans 12:13).

- *How could you show hospitality to people in need?*

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
<b>Migration &amp; trafficking</b>
Water, sanitation & hygiene

## Care

Churches should **care for and speak out on behalf of** migrants and refugees (Proverbs 31:8-9). Such ministries are often challenging, but they can be an effective approach for transformation.

- *Are there migrants or refugees in your area that you could reach out to?*
- *What action could your local church take to 'speak out' on behalf of migrants and refugees?*



## Reflection

Think about your own response to the questions above. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you whether any of your attitudes need to change. Pray about what action you and your church can take to accept, welcome, care for and speak out on behalf of, migrants and refugees.



## Notes

This Bible study is adapted from one written by Davidson Solanki and was first published in Tearfund (2009) Footsteps 79 - *Migration*,

[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps\\_71-80/footsteps\\_78/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_71-80/footsteps_78/)

### Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing migration: information for facilitators [*A1: Migration & trafficking-1*]
- A1 – Revealing trafficking: information for facilitators [*A1: Migration & trafficking-2*]
- A2 – Exploring the risks and opportunities of migration [*A2: Migration & trafficking-1*]
- A2 – Understanding vulnerability to human trafficking (slavery) [*A2: Migration & trafficking-3*]
- A2 – The lies traffickers tell [*A2: Migration & trafficking-4*]
- B – Loving the outcast (Bible study) [*B: Discrimination & inclusion-2*]
- B – Each of us is special to God [*B: Discrimination & inclusion-5*]
- C1 – Advocacy – communicating with people in power [*C1: Awareness raising-2*]

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