

Scripture Passages

Below is a list of scripture passages relevant to refugee work. Although this list is not exhaustive, it will get you started. Use them in a bulletin announcement, on a poster, in a Bible study, to start a meeting, or for personal devotions to prepare yourself for this work. The Bible speaks clearly about what God expects of us and in our relationships with our refugee brothers and sisters.

Psalms of Refuge

Psalm 9 “The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble...”

Psalm 16 “Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge...”

Psalm 17 “Hear me, Lord; my plea is just. Listen to my cry...”

Psalm 18 “I love you, Lord, my strength...”

Psalm 31 “In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame...”

Psalm 34 “I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips...”

Psalm 36 “I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: there is no fear of God before their eyes...”

Psalm 46 “God is our refuge and strength; an ever-present help in trouble...”

Psalm 61 “Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer...”

Psalm 71 “In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame...”

Psalm 91 “Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty...”

Psalm 118 “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever...”

Psalm 142 “I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy...”

Other Scripture Related to Immigration and Refugees

Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image...’”

Genesis 12:1 “The Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people, and your father’s household to the land I will show you...’”

Exodus 2:15-22 “... Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian...”

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

Exodus 23:9 “Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels...”

Leviticus 19:9-18 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field...leave them for the poor and the foreigner...”

Leviticus 19:33-34 “The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born...”

Numbers 15:15 “...You and the foreigner shall be the same before the Lord...”

Deuteronomy 10:18-19 “[God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you...”

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 “Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice...”

Deuteronomy 27:19 “Cursed is anyone who withholds justice from the foreigner...”

Ruth 2 “[Ruth] asked him, ‘Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me – a foreigner?’”

1 Chronicles 29:14-16 “We are foreigners and strangers in [God’s] sight...”

Psalms 146 “The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked...”

Psalms 147:1-6 “... [the Lord] heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds...”

Proverbs 14:31 “Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker...”

Proverbs 22:8-9, 16 “Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity...”

Proverbs 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...”

Isaiah 1:17 “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed...”

Isaiah 3:14-15 “... ‘What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?’ declares the Lord, the Lord Almighty...”

Isaiah 10:1-4 “Woe to those who make unjust laws...”

Jeremiah 7:5-7 “...Change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly...”

Jeremiah 22:3, 13-17 “This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right... do no wrong or violence to the foreigner...”

Malachi 3:5 “... ‘I will be quick to testify against... those who deprive foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

Matthew 2:13-15 “... So he got up, took the child [Jesus] and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt...”

Matthew 25:31-46 “... The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...’”

Luke 4:14-21 “... The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...”

Luke 10:25-37 “Who is my neighbour?”

Romans 12:13 “Share with the Lord’s people who are in need...”

Romans 13:1-7 “... The authorities that exist have been established by God...”

Ephesians 2:11-22 “... For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...”

Hebrews 13:1-2 “Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters...”

James 2:5-9, 14-17 “... God [has] chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith...”

1 John 3:14-18 “... And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters...”

1 John 4:7-21 "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God..."

Revelations 15:4b "All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."