



Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"
The expert in the law replied,
“THE ONE WHO HAD MERCY ON HIM.” Jesus told him, **“GO AND DO LIKEWISE.”**

—LUKE 10:36, 37

It is clear throughout the scriptures that God's heart is with those who are oppressed, persecuted, and impoverished. Time and time again we see God calling his people to love the foreigner, the stranger, the sojourner, and to act on His behalf to see them cared for and able to flourish.

After reading Elena's story and watching the video by Michael Kruger, use the questions on the following pages to guide discussion with your friends, family or small house-church gathering and use **World Refugee Sabbath** as your opportunity to take action for refugees like Elena.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

JUNE 18 WORLD REFUGEE SABBATH ADRA.org/WorldRefugeeSabbath

Read the Story & Watch the Video

Pray

Begin your time in prayer...

Lord, you are a God of justice, mercy, and love. We thank you for the opportunity we have to learn about the plight of refugees around the world, to reflect on your heart for refugees all over the world, and to take action to help bring about a more just world. As we begin this conversation, we ask you to guide our thoughts, stir our hearts and prepare our hands for the work that you would have us do, as we strive to reflect your character and grace in this world. Amen.

Discuss

Personal Reflection

Reflect on a moment where you have felt unsafe, or in danger. What did that feel like? What happened to get you out of that situation? How did it feel when that experience was over? You might like to share that experience with the group

What thoughts, words, or images come to mind when you hear the word 'refugee'?

Have you ever met someone who was a refugee? Or someone fleeing a crisis? What did you learn from them about that experience? (If no one in your group has something to share you might like to share the story [Nina](#) or [Masha](#) found on our website).

Take a moment to read through the **Refugee Sabbath Fact Sheet** together, are you surprised by any of these statistics?

Scriptural Reflection

Read through the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25–37

What pictures, thoughts, or memories does this passage bring up for you? Were there any particular words or phrases that struck you?

This 'expert' to whom Jesus spoke was a Jewish man, who would have hated Samaritans. What would be a modern-day equivalent of the characters in this story?

Why do you think Jesus chose to make a hated Samaritan the hero of the story...What point was Jesus making about who our 'neighbours' are?

What would it look like to show compassion to refugees?



Scriptural Reflection, continued

What stops us from showing mercy to refugees? What are some of the barriers?

The Samaritan had to make sacrifices to care for the man who had been robbed, he left a substantial sum of money and promised to pay any extra expenses, what might it cost us to ensure that refugees are provided safety and care?

Reflecting on the story of the Good Samaritan, Martin Luther King Jr once said:

“On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life’s roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”

When it comes to the global refugee crisis, what is wrong with ‘the road’? What people, systems, or events produce refugees?

How can we participate in transforming ‘the whole Jericho Road’?

Action Reflection

What can we, as individuals and as a community, do to better understand the global refugee crisis?

As a group, discuss what meaningful action you might be able to take today to support refugees? (E.g., building relationships, mentoring, advocacy)

What would it look like for your community to welcome the ‘foreigner residing among us’ (Leviticus 19:33)?

Pray to conclude

God of Justice and Compassion, we know that you hear the cries of refugees all over the world. Hold them in their pain, love them in their loss, and comfort them in their fear.

As we find ways to connect and serve the vulnerable in our world, please help us demonstrate your grace and mercy. Help us to know how best to love and care for refugees like Elena. Give us humility, wisdom, and generosity, as we work to transform this world. Amen.



WORLD
REFUGEE
SABBATH
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