



"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

Praying for Refugees

Praying Through a Story

Search this week's news stories for any stories about refugees. Read the stories together. Print or cut and stick a news story about refugees onto a large sheet of paper and then write sentence prayers for their needs all around the story.

Praying for Those Making Difficult Decisions

One of the most difficult challenges for refugees is the choice they have to make between staying in a place where they are in danger or making a dangerous journey to another place that may or may not be safer. They have to leave their homes, communities, friends and loved ones. Sometimes the journey is very expensive and very dangerous.

Different Refugees—Different Needs

Think about the different groups of people who may be travelling as refugees. What are their challenges and special needs as they move around in all weathers, perhaps with very little shelter or supplies?

- ▶ Babies
- ▶ Young children
- ▶ School age children
- ▶ Teenagers
- ▶ Young people
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Older people
- ▶ People who are ill or disabled

Choose one of these age groups, list their needs, and think about how they might be feeling as they try to make their way to a safe place. Then pray for them. Or find a picture of a refugee in one or more of the age groups and write a prayer for their needs.



All kinds of Emotions

Imagine that you are a refugee running away from a dangerous place and making a long journey to safety. What are some of the emotions that you might be experiencing? Hope, fear, sadness, frustration, confusion, stress, exhaustion, peace, worry, etc.? Write each emotion on a different card. Place them face down on the table. Pick up a card and pray for all the refugees that are experiencing that emotion at the moment. What Bible verses help you when you have that emotion? Use the Bible verses to inspire your prayers. How might God care about all His children, everywhere. He is especially concerned about those in danger and those who are sad, struggling, alone, or frightened. Learn about the experiences of some of the refugees in a specific situation, place or context. Draw around your hand and imagine it is the hand of God. Draw some refugees in the palm of the hand and gently place them in God's hands, knowing that He is caring for them. Pray that the refugees will experience the peace of God in their hearts. Pray that they will feel how truly close He is to them, and how much He loves them.

Praying for Softened Hearts

- ▶ Take a piece play dough, salt dough or clay—something soft that you can shape with your hands. Form it into the shape of a heart and feel how soft it is. God wants us to have soft and kind hearts, hearts of flesh, and not cruel hearts that are hard like stone (Ezekiel 36:26).
- ▶ Think about some of the people that the refugees will meet on their journey. Some will be kind and welcoming, some might treat them badly, some are officials with specific responsibilities to carry out, some will be uncertain and won't know what to do or say.
- ▶ Hold your soft heart. Pray for the different people who will meet the refugees on their journey. Pray that these people will have soft hearts and be especially kind and welcoming to them.
- ▶ Now take your soft heart and press objects into it to make a pattern or design that reminds you of the experience of refugees in some way. Let it dry out, paint it or decorate it, and use it to remind you to pray for refugees.
- ▶ Close with a prayer for refugees.

