

Refugee Sunday – Worship Planning Resource

As you seek to host a Refugee Sunday – to open the eyes and hearts of your congregation to the plight of refugees, World Vision has prepared a wide range of elements to best engage your people. Due to the range of liturgy, worship expressions, and sacred moments, below are suggested elements that may help you to plan a Refugee Sunday.

There are 4 main elements suggested, with an accompanying video. Feel free to adapt to your congregation. It may be helpful to choose resources from each:

- A. Call To Worship Elements**
- B. Prayer Elements**
- C. Music Elements**
- D. Benediction Elements**

Offering or communion elements have intentionally not been added so that your worship liturgy and traditions can be honored.

A. Call To Worship Elements:

Invocation:

The early church gathered to worship, pray and learn together. They opened their homes, shared their food and sold their possessions to provide for each other.

Let us learn from them, their radical hospitality, and be the people of hope that we are called to be.

Responsive Reading 1:

(taken from Ps 81:10, Eph 2:19, 1 Jn 4:11, Heb 13:2)

Leader: Let us come to worship the God who brought our people out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of bondage.

People: We are no longer strangers and sojourners, but are fellow citizens with the people of God, and members of the household of God.

Leader: If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

People: By showing hospitality to strangers, we entertain angels and welcome Jesus in our midst.

Responsive Reading 2:

(taken from Jas 1:17, Mic 6:8, Amos 5:24, Jas 1:27, Isa 58:7-8, Matt 25:35 and Hos 14:2)

Leader: God our Father, whatever is good and perfect comes from you. You never change. What you ask of your people has never changed –

People: You have told us, O Lord, what is required: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with You.

Leader: What kind of faith pleases your heart?

People: Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.

Leader: Holy, Holy, Holy Spirit...move us to action:

People: So that justice rolls like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Leader: In helping the marginalized, we are serving the Lord Jesus:

People: For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home

Leader: Open our eyes, minds, and hearts; accept that which is good:

All: We offer our worship -- the fruit of our lips to you, our God. Amen.

Opening Video:

I - What Would You Take (1:48)

B. Prayer Elements:

Prayer I:

Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of men and women;
Move my hands that they may feed the hungry.
Touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing;
Teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers;
Let me share my possessions to clothe the naked;
Give me the care that strengthens the sick;
Make me share in the quest to set the prisoners free;
In sharing our anxiety and our love,
Our poverty and our prosperity,
We partake of your divine presence. Amen.

Source: *Canaan Banana, former President of Zimbabwe*

Prayer 2:

Leader: Lord Jesus, who fled the wrath of Herod,

People: Be with those who have to flee the injustice of others.

Leader: Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay your head,

People: Be with those who have no land to call their home.

Leader: For the refugees in Palestine,

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the refugees in Syria and Iraq

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the refugees in Lebanon and Jordan

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the refugees in Eastern Europe and who have come to Canada

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the refugees who have fled oppression in their own countries and who are seeking new lives in new lands;

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Help us, Lord, who are the privileged inn-keepers of our day, to find room for those who have been driven from their homelands because of political, racial, or religious reasons. Amen.

Source: Adapted from Australian Prayer Fellowship Handbook 1981

C. Music Elements:

Contemporary Worship:

Everlasting God – Chris Tomlin

God of Justice – Tim Hughes

Great Are You Lord - Jason Ingram

Hosanna – Brooke Fraser

Jesus Lord of Heaven – Phil Wickham

You Never Let Go – Matt Redman
Your Grace Is Enough – Chris Tomlin

Hymns:

All People That On Earth Do Well
Be Still My Soul (Finlandia)
Fairest Lord Jesus
I Surrender All
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Lead on O King Eternal
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Message Video:

2 - Syrian Children Call For Peace (2:51)

D. Benediction Elements

Benediction 1

God of the stranger, you have been made known to us in Jesus Christ, who was born as a migrant and exiled as a refugee. Lead us as we leave this place of worship to build a community rooted in hospitality to strangers and justice for all. Amen.

Benediction 2

Go now as sojourners in the land, pilgrims passing through. As heaven is our true home, give us as an inheritance the land we are passing through. The kingdom of God is neither here nor there. The kingdom is among us. Amen.

Benediction 3

O God, we are your witnesses to your people here and around the world. As we have been welcomed into your presence, we leave to welcome others to the same. Go with us, and strengthen our resolve to embrace those we meet with your love. Amen.

Closing Video:

3 – Jordan - Michael Messenger (2:16)