



# 24-7 PRAYER

The Refugee Sunday Church Pack, 18/25 June 2017

## 7 Day Prayer Guide for Refugees and Displaced People

### About This Prayer Guide

Currently, over 65.3 million people are displaced in the world today. World Refugee Sunday is taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The **Refugee Highway Partnership**, the **World Evangelical Alliance**, the **European Evangelical Alliance** and **The Refugee Campaign**, are calling Christians to pray for transformation.

The Bible teaches that prayer is the most transformational force in the lives of individuals, churches and even nations. As God's people, we are called to hold fast to His word, praise Him at all times and humble ourselves in prayer.

In the book of James we read that, "the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective," so we must start with prayer; crying out for change.

The vision for World Refugee Sunday is to focus not simply on prayer, but on mission too. As we start to pray, our hearts are transformed and we are driven into the world to practically bring change.

### How to Use This Prayer Guide

This Prayer Guide, designed to be used over a week, gives 7 different reflections and prayer points for church communities, small groups and individuals to use. Our prayer is that through this Prayer Guide, you will be encouraged and inspired to pray; and engage with the struggles and challenges facing refugees all over the world.

Join with us as we pray together.

Find out more on the [Refugee Highway website](#), or join in on social media using the hashtag **#WorldRefugeeSunday**



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## Day 1: Refugees Have a Name

### Reflect

We so often use the term 'refugees' that it's easy to forget that this is not the sole identity of those who are seeking refuge. Each individual refugee has a personal name, and family name; and these are known by God. God knows each name; He knows each story. Every refugee is loved by God.

In the Bible, Hagar was a slave and she found herself displaced and on the run. Yet, in this place of desperation God met with her and transformed her perspective:

*"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me" (Genesis 16:13).*

Irrespective of how the world categorises people, God sees each individual for who they are.

### Pray

Lord, we pray for the individuals and families who have been displaced and labelled as refugees. God, you know their names and you love them for who they are. Help us to see beyond the label, and remember they are people like us with fears, dreams, desires, hopes and futures. God help us to view them as human beings through your eyes.

## Day 2: Everybody Needs a Home

### Reflect

Speaking with refugees and displaced people, you quickly realize that they don't want a 'better life' somewhere new. They want to live a safe and stable life in their home country. They want to go home.

Our stereotypes may perceive that refugees are the poorest families without belongings or possessions, yet in reality many have had to leave their home comforts behind.

On a recent visit to a refugee camp, one worker was struck by the significance of a teenager using an electronic tablet. For us, a symbol of wealth - for her, a precious memory of the life that she had left behind.

*"Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).*

### Pray

Lord, we pray for those who have lost all that was normal and comfortable; help them to find comfort and stability in the place that they are in. God, draw near to them as they long for home. We also pray for peace and safety in those parts of the world where refugees have fled so that they can return home.



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## Day 3: Families Belong Together

### Reflect

In times of chaos and war, families become separated. Children get lost; fathers go ahead; family members drown at sea. In a new and foreign place, it is impossible to imagine what it must feel like to be disconnected from blood relatives; isolated and alone.

We believe that families belong together. Today, our prayer is for the vulnerable, lost and frightened. If you are able, you can help refugees to find a sense of family and home by hosting one or more refugees, either at home or in your community. There are many different initiatives that offer support in this area that you can find online.

### Pray

*“He will take pity on the weak and needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in His sight” (Psalm 72:12-14).*

Abba Father, thank you that you provide protection and care for the weakest and vulnerable. Protect children, parents and family members who have been separated from their relatives. Keep them safe, and help them to know your peace and everlasting love.

## Day 4: Don't Turn Your Back

### Reflect

The Irish rock band, U2, wrote the following lyrics in one of their songs:

*“And it's true we are immune  
When fact is fiction and TV reality  
And today the millions cry  
We eat and drink while tomorrow they die.”*

In the middle of this week of prayer, it would be so easy to become immune - and apathetic to the challenges we're praying for. Yet, we're reminded of Jesus, who saw the multitudes harassed and helpless; he endured and persevered even to the point of death. He didn't turn away; he didn't turn his back.

Our prayer today is that we will keep going and that we will persevere in prayer; in giving a voice to the voiceless; that we won't turn away and stop looking because it's too painful, but with Christ's help we will face the reality of the suffering in the world with a sense of hope.

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up...” (Galatians 6:9).*

### Pray

Lord God, today we commit to not look away. We ask for your compassion; for your Holy Spirit to empower us to keep going, to keep asking, to keep helping refugees who are suffering. Father, come to those who work directly with refugees; give them fresh energy



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from heaven to keep going. Help us to remember your example of endurance and fix our eyes on your hope even in the brokenness.

## Day 5: Can We Really Pray For Peace?

### Reflect

World peace can easily become a routine prayer we use when we can't think of anything else to say in response to difficult situations. However, we should regularly be passionately praying for peace to prevail in our broken world. If peace breaks out; the world changes.

Let us hold fast to the truth that prayer is powerful and God answers our prayers, and persist in praying for peace, to our God, who is the Prince of Peace.

*“The LORD gives strength to His people; the LORD blesses His people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).*

### Pray

Almighty God, we earnestly pray for an end to all wars, poverty and torture that cause people to leave their homes and become refugees or internally displaced. We ask you, Almighty God to, “make wars to cease from the ends of the earth” (Psalm 49:9), so children and families can once again enjoy safety and live life in all its fullness.

## Day 6: What Can I Do?

### Reflect

As Christians, we are called to take action against injustice:

### Continue to Pray

Form a prayer group that meets regularly to pray. Even if you can't be physically in the same room, arrange regular times of prayer for refugees and commit to stop and pray at the same time.

Give generously - there are a variety of agencies you can support, both financially and with your time (see the different projects highlighted in the Refugee Sunday Church Pack).

### Advocacy

Find out what your local and national leaders are doing in response to the refugee crisis. Pray for them and offer to support them but also challenge them to do more. Engage individually or collectively in the advocacy actions proposed in the Refugee Sunday Church Pack.

### Talk to Your Church Leaders

What are they doing? What is your church's response to the refugee crisis?



# 24-7 PRAYER

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## Pray

Lord Jesus, give each of us Your compassion, and show us how we can personally and collectively respond to the needs of refugees in our local communities, our nation, and around the world. Help us to take action where we should.

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Philippians 2: 3:4).*

## Day 7: Leaders Who Are Peacemakers!

### Reflect

The refugee crisis is complex and fraught with challenges, but we need brave leaders, with open hearts and minds to look for innovative and creative ways in which to bring about an end to this crisis. We need leaders who will be peacemakers, and will work hard to make peace. We must pray with hope that God can inspire those who lead our nations with ways and means to solve this crisis.

*“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).*

### Pray

Lord God, we lift to you local government leaders, government leaders, officials of the European institutions and the United Nations. Please provide insight and wisdom to ensure an effective response to the refugee crisis and to solve the underlying causes of conflict; and ultimately to build peace. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.