

Jan 17 | Sunday

Facing Issues That Divide - Immigrants, Refugees, and the Bible - Read [Duet. 24:17-22](#)



18 | Mon – God’s people are immigrants | Read [Leviticus. 25:23, 1 Peter 2:9-11](#)

Sometimes we are so focused on looking at others, we do not see ourselves the way God does. In Leviticus, God reminds us that the land is His and we are immigrants, foreign guests of his (CEB version). Hundreds of years later, Peter echoes that thought, calling us foreigners and exiles (NIV version). How does it change your perspective about others when you consider that the earth is not your true home?

19 | Tue – The responsibility of the powerful | Read [Proverbs 31:8-9](#)

These two verses summarize the key responsibilities of anyone in a position of some power or influence - speaking up for those who are vulnerable and voiceless, defending the needy and the poor, making sure the defenseless are protected. It is rare that we think of ourselves as powerful but we all have influence. Are you using your ‘power’ and influence in a way that benefits those who need it most?

20 | Wed – What God expects | Read [Psalm 82:1-4](#)

You do not have to look very far to find a person who fits the description in this psalm, someone who needs befriending, defending, or rescuing. We are too often drawn to the opposite kind of people, those who are famous, wealthy, or powerful. In these verses, God is very clear about His expectations for us. This week can you be on the lookout for someone who needs help that you can provide?

21 | Thu – Remember? | Read [Exodus 22:21, 23:6-9](#)

Here God is reminding His people of their past; they knew what it was like to be foreigners in another country...Egypt, the most powerful nation in the world at that time. They had been oppressed, taken advantage of, and denied justice. So He is very clear about the way they were to treat foreigners in their country...fairly and with respect. Do you think God would expect anything less from us?

22 | Fri – God does not play favorites | Read [Leviticus 19:33-34; Deut. 10:14-19](#)

Tolerating, being civil, or even nice to foreign people is not good enough. We know God loves us, but Deuteronomy 10:18 states that God also “loves the foreigner residing among you” and in verse 19, we are commanded to follow His example. Love is an action word. When you meet people from another country, look for ways to bless them.

23 | Sat – Are you “looking for a better county”? | Read [Hebrews 11:13-16](#)

When we are fully engaged in life, it can be challenging sometimes to remember that this earth is not our true home, that we are living here temporarily, and that our real homeland is the place God is preparing for us in heaven. When you focus on this truth, how does it change your perspective? How does it change the choices you make? How does it change the way you relate to those around you?

January 24 | Sun – Facing Issues That Divide: Responding to Islamic Extremism



Hastings United Methodist Church