

# A LESSON ON WELCOMING OTHERS

## GRADES 4-6 -- Immigration - Lesson II (Year I, Day 1)

**Goal:** Students will be introduced to the concept of a Christian community based on Gospel principles. They will be introduced to stories of welcoming others and kindness to strangers as a direct outcome of lived faith.

**Materials:** Construction paper, markers, collage materials, hole punch, yarn or ribbon

**Lesson:** The first three videos explain what it means to be a refugee. The video [What is a Refugee](#) is a little simpler, and [Who is a Refugee](#) may be better for older students. The [Refugee Animation](#) is from a Catholic Refugee aid agency in the U.K. talks about Pope Francis's call to welcome refugees but has some content specific to that agency. [Julianne's Story](#) tells the true story of a refugee child from Zimbabwe who is separated and reunited with her mother and her struggle to fit into a new community in the UK. [The Box](#) is a short film imaginatively dramatizing the journey of a child who flees the war in Syria all alone and must make his way to a safe refuge. [The Millionaires Who Rescue People at Sea](#) is an inspiring story that shows a couple who help migrants at sea. They are an example of living the Gospel because they use their wealth to help others.

**Watch:** [What is a refugee?](#) from Save the Children Australia (Gr 4)

or [Who is a Refugee?](#) from UNHCR Teaching About Refugees (Gr 5-6)

or [Refugee Animation](#) from CAFOD

[Seeking Refuge Julianne's Story](#) from MummuLondon

or [An Award-Winning Animated Journey of a War Child: THE BOX](#) from Animatick Animation Studio

[The millionaires who rescue people at sea](#) from BBC

**Discussion:**

- What is a refugee?
- Can you name some refugees or migrants in the Bible? (e.g Abraham, Moses and the Israelites fleeing Egypt, the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt)
- What challenges might a refugee have to face once they arrive in a safe country?

- Why is it important to welcome refugees and migrants?
- How can we welcome refugees in our community and make them feel at home?
- What does the family do with their boat? Why?
- Do they know the people they help?

**Activity:** Make a Class “Quilt”: Give each student 8 inch squares of construction paper. With markers or collage materials, have students create an image of their family culture on their square. Encourage students to bring photos or other materials from home to add to their square. When all the squares are finished, punch holes with hole punchers around the edges of the squares and lace them together with yarn or ribbon. Display your Class Quilt in the classroom.

**Service Opportunity:**

Contact your [local refugee resettlement agency](#) or [Children's Village](#) to ask if they would be open to your class making “welcome to the USA cards”.

**Prayer:**

*Loving God,  
We thank you for creating all the people of the world and for allowing us to learn from  
their cultures and beliefs.  
Remind us to see your face when we meet new people for the first time.  
Give us courage to welcome them and show them love and courtesy.  
Grant safety to all immigrants and refugees who leave their homes for a new land,  
looking for safety, peace, and opportunity for their families.*

*Amen.*

*Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website*