

# contentious ISSUES

ABORTION • INCOME INEQUALITY • IMMIGRATION • CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM • HUMAN SEXUALITY  
A Biblical Perspective on Tough Topics

## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 January 19, 2025

### “Immigration”

*Deuteronomy 10:18, 24:19-21; Psalm 146:9, Leviticus 18:26, 19:33-34; Malachi 3:5; Exodus 12:49; Matthew 25:34-40; Genesis 41:38-40, 47:5-6*

#### I. Opinions and Solutions

- A. Many factors have triggered a change in the thinking of the American people, and a growing concern over \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ advocate for increasing various resources at the border and more economic aid to countries where migrants are coming from.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ advocate for deportations, building a wall, and implementing severe penalties on businesses for hiring people who do not have legal work status.

#### II. Facts About Immigration

- A. Many individuals who come and find work in the U.S. do not \_\_\_\_\_ into the four categories to obtain Lawful Permanent Resident status.
- B. Most immigrants without \_\_\_\_\_ status come to improve their economic situation, to reunite families or flee persecution or violence in their country of origin.
- C. Almost all economists (44 out of 46 of those surveyed by the Wall Street Journal) agree that undocumented immigrants are \_\_\_\_\_ for the U.S. economy.
- D. The research does \_\_\_\_\_ support the view that immigrants commit crime or are incarcerated at higher rates than native-born Americans.

#### III. Scripture and UMC Stance

- A. In the Old Testament, \_\_\_\_\_ says to assist the stranger, accept the stranger, and assimilate the stranger.
- B. The New Testament does not address immigration directly, but we see Jesus demonstrating attitudes of love and \_\_\_\_\_ toward non-Israelites.
- C. The biblical story of Joseph and Pharaoh provides us with a \_\_\_\_\_ for seeing the arrival of immigrants as an opportunity and responding with hospitality.
- D. The UMC social principals call us to actively \_\_\_\_\_ the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us.

#### IV. Moving Forward

- A. Immigration creates a tremendous opportunity for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. There are several action steps for Christians regarding immigration:  
Pray, Listen, Educate, Advocate, Serve, Evangelize



# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *January 20-25, 2025*

## INTRODUCTION

During the 2024 U.S. presidential election, many U.S. voters listed immigration among their top concerns. This is not new; immigration has been a touchstone of the U.S. political debate for decades. So how should Christians respond?

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### Monday: Genesis 41:38-40, Genesis 47:5-11, Exodus 1:8-16

We find two contrasting views of immigrants—either as a threat or as an opportunity—exemplified in Scripture. We encounter a Pharaoh who sees a great opportunity in Joseph. At the beginning of Exodus, we find a very different response to immigrants: one grounded in fear. When you think about the arrival of immigrants to your community, is your first reaction to think of this as a threat, an opportunity or something of both?

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### Tuesday: Deuteronomy 10:17-19, Psalm 146:9

God's love for the immigrant is consistent with his concern for those who are vulnerable. Repeatedly, immigrants are referenced together with three other groups: the orphan, the widow, and the impoverished. How do you think that God's commands to the Israelites with respect to immigrants should inform how we, as American Christians, interact with immigrants (if at all)?

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### Wednesday: Genesis 42:1-2, Ruth 1:6-13, Matthew 2:13-14

We see some of the same reasons in scripture at play today as to why people want to leave their homeland and seek a new place to live. What would you do if war erupted in the United States and you came to believe you would be killed if you stayed? Where would you flee to? If you had just a few minutes to get out, what would you take with you?

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### Thursday: John 17:21, 1 Timothy 2:2, Proverbs 21:1, Matthew 18:19, Romans 12:12

In this week's sermon, Pastor Eric said there are six action steps we can take to address the problem of immigration: pray, listen, educate, advocate, serve and evangelize. What steps could you take to find more opportunities to hear the voices of the immigrants within your community?

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### Friday: Matthew 28:16-20

We are commanded to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19); and because of immigration, the nations have arrived at our doorstep. According to a recent study, 60 percent of immigrants with non-Christian religious traditions in the US say they do not know a Christian. How do you think that the tone with which Christians discuss immigration affects the way that immigrants hear the gospel?

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## MOVING FORWARD

If we think about immigration merely from a political, economic, or cultural perspective and fail to examine the issue from a biblical, missional perspective, we may miss out on the opportunity God has presented to his Church within the U.S. God is drawing people to Himself through migration of people and calls us to join Him in that mission. We need to join the legacy of Christians who have seen the global refugee crisis as an opportunity to boldly engage with the love of Christ, we have an opportunity to glorify God and point people to Him.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) immigration, B) Democrats, C) Republicans. IIA) fit, IIB) legal, C) good, D) not. IIIA) God, B) acceptance, C) model, D) welcome. IVA) church.*