

contentious ISSUES

A Biblical Perspective on Tough Topics

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 3 January 19, 2025

“Immigration”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near. As we gather for this study, give us your guidance and wisdom on the topic of immigration and help us to put aside our politics on this issue. Help us to find opportunities to get to know immigrants in our community and help us be your witnesses to them. We pray this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Deuteronomy 10:18 (NIV)

¹⁸He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Psalms 146:9 (NIV)

⁹The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)

³³“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. ³⁴The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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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?

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.

QUESTIONS

1. What has your perspective, if any, been on the issue of immigration? What voices or ideas have most influenced your position?
2. Do you think it is possible to reconcile the ideas of welcoming immigrants and upholding the law?
3. Read Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 146:9, and Leviticus 19:33-34 (on page 1). 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)?
4. 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?
5. What steps could you take to find more opportunities to hear the voices of the immigrants within your community?

FINAL APPLICATION

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. Which one of these can you do this week, and what can this group do to help?