



#PRAYFIRST

A Gospel-Centered Approach
to the Refugee Crisis

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**IHOPKC
PRAYER
GUIDE**

A CALL TO PRAY FIRST FOR REFUGEES

A GOSPEL
CENTERED
APPROACH
TO THE
REFUGEE CRISIS

The current refugee crisis is an unprecedented moment in the Middle East. Literally millions of people have found themselves either internally displaced within their nation, as refugees in neighboring nations, or as refugees seeking asylum in other nations. The refugee crisis is creating unprecedented political challenges as nations grapple with the question of how to respond to the refugee crisis.

As followers of Jesus who recognize the sovereignty of God over the nations, we must realize that crisis moments in the earth can be catalytic for the gospel.

With the confidence that God is directing all of history in such a way to produce a people from every tribe and tongue who love His Son (Revelation 5:9; 7:9), we want to approach the refugee crisis according to two convictions:

The Priority of Prayer- God has given the church tremendous authority in the earth and that authority is exercised first in the place of prayer. When we think of the refugee crisis, prayer should be the first response.

Salvation- We know that God deeply loves the refugee populations in the earth and that He directs the nations in such a way to cause them to seek Him. Therefore our first priority in prayer for refugees should be prayers for salvation. The deepest need of the human heart is the gospel and crisis moments also present unusual opportunities for preaching the gospel.

What would happen if every time we thought about the refugee crisis, we paused and interceded for salvation among the refugees and for power on each Christian workers laboring among the refugees? What could happen if the global church began to focus specific intercession on behalf of the salvation of the refugees?

Our prayers play a dynamic role in God's activity in the earth. Our intercession in this moment in history plays a significant role in the outcome of this crisis.

The political solutions to the refugee crisis are incredibly complex. Christians who love Jesus even disagree deeply on the proper political solutions to the refugee crisis. Political solutions are important, but as the global church let's prioritize prayer for a great harvest among the refugees. *Who knows what God might do.*

Several years ago, a missionary who had spent 30 years in the Middle East told me that dreams and visions of Jesus among Muslims increased dramatically as prayer in the church for the Middle East increased. *Our consistent prayers, though they seem weak, release God's power and shift history.*

A GOSPEL-CENTERED APPROACH TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS

POINTS TO
CONSIDER
WHEN PRAYING
ABOUT THE
REFUGEE CRISIS

The Priority of Intercession

Intercession should be our first response to global crises because God has invited us to ask Him for the nations (Psalm 2:8; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 4:16). *When we embrace intercession as our first response to the refugee crisis it aligns our heart with the heart of God and it directs His power on behalf of the refugees.* Praying statements, promises, and prayers found in the Bible is an excellent way to align our hearts with God's agenda.

The Sovereignty of God

God is sovereign over the nations (Psalm 22:28; 115:3; Daniel 4:35; Romans 8:28). *The mass migration of millions of people has not come as a surprise to God.* He is active and present in the situation. We can be confident that He has an agenda for this moment in human history.

Faith Over Fear

God sets the borders of the nations so that men will reach for Him (Acts 17:26-27). Fear is a normal emotion during periods of crisis, but should not be the governing emotion. *We want to approach the refugee crisis with faith in what God can do (Acts 4:25-33).*

Mission

We should desire the safety and well-being of our nations but not to the point that we miss opportunities to engage in the mission of God. *When we think of the refugee crisis we want to prioritize the salvation of refugees.* Millions of people who previously had little or no access to the gospel can now be reached relatively easily. We must take advantage of this opportunity while it is available. This could be a moment we see millions gripped in darkness for generations comes into the light. We must also remember that many of the most marginalized refugees are Christians. They are our family and their pain is our pain (Hebrews 13:3; 1 Corinthians 12:26). *We must take up their cause in intercession and practical service.*

Government Leaders

God puts governments in place to serve the people (Romans 13:1-7). *We want to intercede for our government leaders first, before we criticize specific points of policy.* God holds the hearts of kings in His hand and remains sovereign over them (Daniel 2:21; 4:25; Proverbs 21:1).

SPECIFIC PRAYER POINTS

1. PRAY FOR SALVATION
2. PRAY FOR LABORERS
3. PRAY FOR WISDOM

1. Pray for Salvation

The primary need of the earth is the gospel and the refugee crisis enables millions of people who were previously difficult to reach now have direct access to the gospel. Pray specifically for the Lord to release salvation among refugee communities.

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.” (Psalm 22:27, ESV)

“Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you...” (2 Thessalonians 3:1, ESV)

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9, ESV)

2. Pray for Laborers

Though many more are needed, there are believers already laboring among refugees to share the gospel and meet physical needs. Pray for the Lord to strengthen laborers as they work among refugees. Pray also for laborers to be sent to reach the refugees.

“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

3. Pray for Wisdom

The refugee crisis has created enormous challenges for governmental leaders. Pray for God to give those with political authority great wisdom to respond to the immense challenges of the situation.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.” (James 1:5, ESV)

SPECIFIC PRAYER TARGETS

1. CHRISTIAN REFUGEES
2. CHRISTIAN WORKERS
3. REFUGEES
4. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

1. Christian Refugees

Many of the most vulnerable refugees are Christians. They are part of the church and we should labor in intercession for them.

2. Christian Workers

Though many more are needed, there are believers already laboring among refugees to share the gospel and meet physical needs. Pray for the Lord to strengthen laborers as they work among refugees. Pray also for laborers to be sent to reach the refugees.

3. Refugees

The vast majority of refugees are not Christians. Pray that the Lord would release massive salvation and empower workers who are sharing the gospel.

3. Government Officials

Governments across the earth are facing immense challenges due to the refugee situation. We are called to pray for those in authority that they would have wisdom to perform their God ordained function.

Additional Resources

How to Respond to the Refugee Crisis

David Platt thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-respond-to-the-refugee-crisis