

Missions Lesson: Refugees

February, Week 1

By Stacy Nall

Objectives:

Children will learn about the plight of refugees and what Southern Baptists are doing to help.

Materials:

Backpack, pillow, teddy bear, water, packaged snacks, Bible, video game, iPad (or other tablet computer or smartphone), children's clothes, toiletry items, tent, blanket, camp stove, world map, stationery, pencils

Preparation:

1. Set up a small camping tent. Place blankets, pillows, and a camp stove inside.
2. Prepare to show the video "Fatima" from YouTube.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GEM9sFze88>

Procedures:

1. If possible, invite the children into the tent.
2. Ask children to tell the favorite object they own.
3. Show them the empty backpack and other items. Say: *If you had to leave your house in a hurry, which of these things would you take. (As children name items, guide them to put them in the backpack.)*

Say: You may not be able to take all or even most of your favorite things. Sometimes families are forced to leave their home and country because of war or persecution. What is persecution? (Persecution means trying to hurt, kill or drive someone away because of their religion or race.) Today, more refugees come from Syria than any other country. Almost 4 million! Turkey has become the world's biggest refugee hosting country.

4. Show world map. Ask volunteers to find Syria and Turkey. Trace the land route from Syria to Turkey.

Say: Syria is in the area that the International Mission Board calls North Africa and the Middle East. Christian workers tell the Good News about Jesus as

they share blankets, water, food, and tents. What should we pray about for the people of Syria, Turkey and the Middle East? (Suggest the following prayer requests: Pray for the volunteers and missionaries who are trying to help refugees and share the love of Jesus. Pray for the physical strength and endurance of the refugees. Pray for God to stop the war that is causing the refugee situation. Pray that the refugees will understand that God loves them.)

5. Lead children outside the tent. Show the video "Fatima."
6. Give children stationery and pencils. Ask them to write a pretend letter to Fatima. Pair older and younger children if necessary. Allow children to share their letter.
7. Pray for refugees.

Learn more: Baptist Global Response is at work around the world meeting human needs. Visit www.gobgr.org for current information on the refugee crisis and how to give.



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