

Shepherding a congregation is an extremely challenging endeavor in these polarizing times! Immigration is just one of the many topics that tend to divide people of faith. However, Scripture can remind and ground us in the mind and heart of God concerning immigrants.

The Ohio Conference Immigration Team has compiled the following biblical texts to assist you in personal reflection, sermon preparation, Sunday School and small group studies – to name just a few options. Scriptures are grouped by topic, defined below, to further assist you. Our prayer is that this resource will help educate and motivate people of faith to extend God's love and hospitality to our immigrant neighbors.

Contact our team at <u>alysashort@gmail.com</u> with any questions or suggestions.

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

equality assuring even-handed treatment

obligation honoring Godly commitments

equity bringing justice to the oppressed

compassion sorrow for the sufferings of others

shalom harmony with God and others

one undivided, united in purpose

"But the Lord will have mercy on the descendants of Jacob. He will choose Israel as his special people once again. He will bring them back to settle once again in their own land. And people from many different nations will come and join them there and unite with the people of Israel."

1 sainh 14:1

"Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.' For this is what the Lord says: '... foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.' The Sovereign Lord declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: 'I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.'"

Trainh 56: 3a. 4a. 6-8

"For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united (Jews and Gentiles) into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between (Jews and Gentiles) by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death."

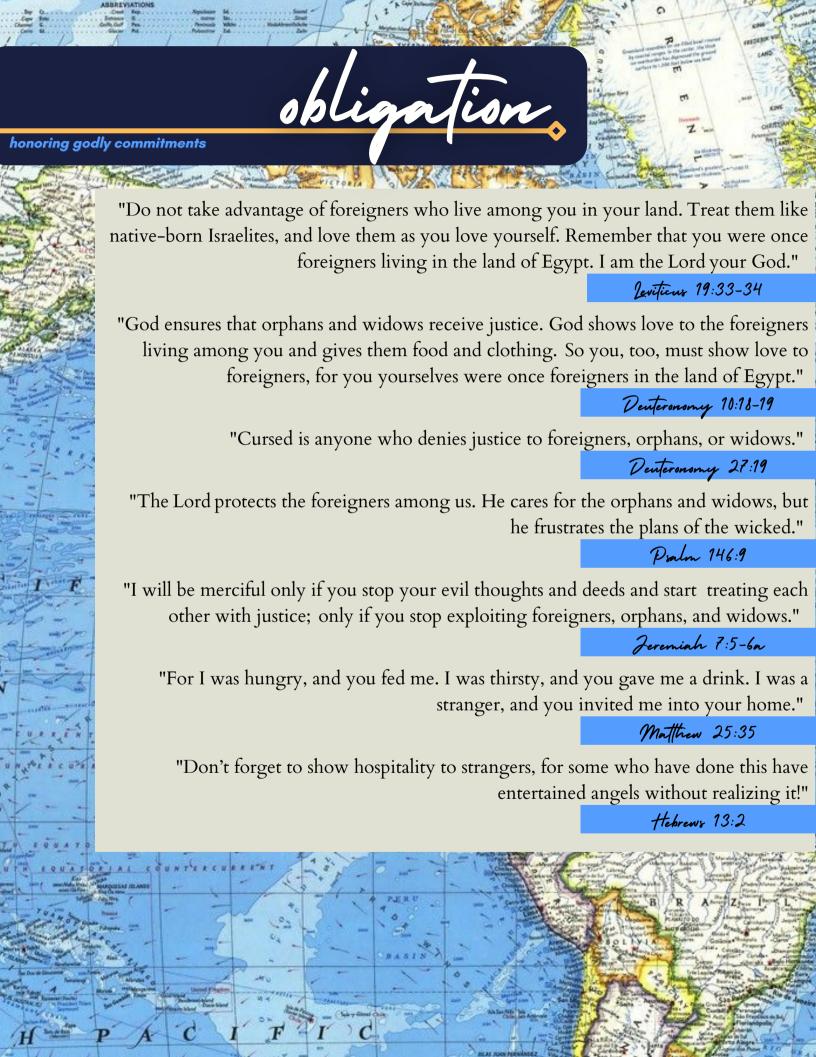
Ephesians 2:14-16

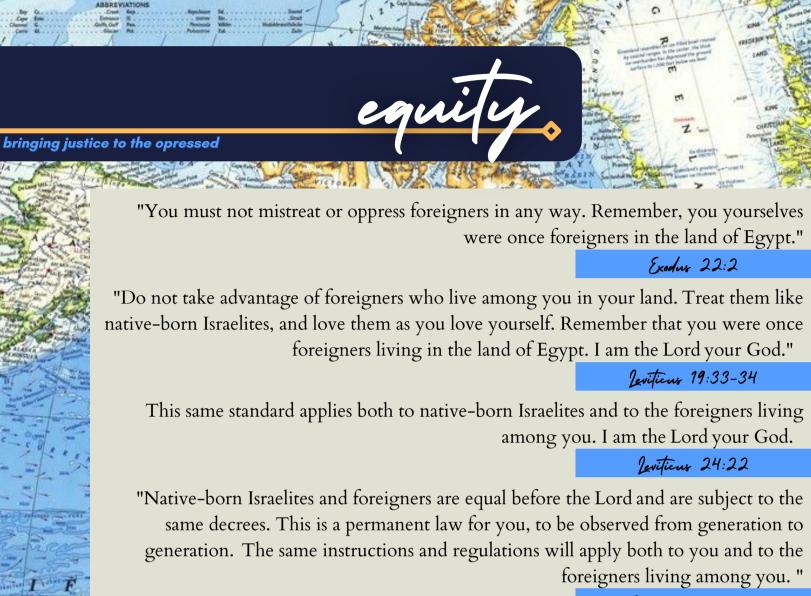
"For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right."

1 Peter 2:13-14

"After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:9-10





Numbers 15:15-16

"Afterward you may go and celebrate because of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration."

Deuteronomy 26:11

"Cursed is anyone who denies justice to foreigners, orphans, or widows."

Denteronomy 27:19

"Distribute the land as an allotment for yourselves and for the foreigners who have joined you and are raising their families among you. They will be like native-born Israelites to you and will receive an allotment among the tribes."

Ezekiel 47:22

"And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as 'temporary residents.'"

1 Peter 1:17

