

Dear Pastor / Church Leader,

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 alysashort@gmail.com 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

equality

assuring even-handed treatment

"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."

Isaiah 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.'"

Isaiah 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



obligation

honoring godly commitments

"Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 19:33-34

"God ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. God shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

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

Deuteronomy 27:19

"The Lord protects the foreigners among us. He cares for the orphans and widows, but he frustrates the plans of the wicked."

Psalms 146:9

"I will be merciful only if you stop your evil thoughts and deeds and start treating each other with justice; only if you stop exploiting foreigners, orphans, and widows."

Jeremiah 7:5-6a

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."

Matthew 25:35

"Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!"

Hebrews 13:2



equity

bringing justice to the oppressed

"You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way. Remember, you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt."

Exodus 22:2

"Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 19:33-34

This same standard applies both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 24:22

"Native-born Israelites and foreigners are equal before the Lord and are subject to the same decrees. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. The same instructions and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigners living among you."

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."

Deuteronomy 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

A background map showing various geographical features, including landmasses, oceans, and cities. The map is partially obscured by dark blue banners containing text.

compassion

sorrow for the sufferings of others

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."

Matthew 25:35

"When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality."

Romans 12:13

shalom

harmony with God and others

"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help."

Isaiah 58:6-7

"I will be merciful only if you stop your evil thoughts and deeds and start treating each other with justice; only if you stop exploiting foreigners, orphans, and widows."

Jeremiah 7:5-6a

one

undivided, united in purpose

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them."

Genesis 1:27

"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