

As of May 2023 more than 110 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide

- 62.5 million internally displaced people
- 35.3 million refugees
- 5.4 million asylum seekers
- 5.2 million people in need of international protection

Refugees in the Old Testament

Genesis 3 Adam and Eve

Genesis 7 and 8 Noah

Genesis 12-13 Abraham and Sarah

Genesis 14 Lot

Genesis 27, 31, 47 Jacob

Genesis 37 Joseph

Ruth Naomi

1 Kings 17-19 Elijah

Refugees in the Old Testament

1 Kings 17-19 Elijah

2 Kings 17 and 24 The Israelites

Ezra and Nehemiah The Israelites

Esther Esther

Matthew 2 Jesus, Joseph and Mary

Acts 8 and 11 The early New Testament Church

Acts 18 Jews

Treatment of foreigners in the Old Testament

Leviticus 19:33-34

“When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The 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.”



International Students

- Over 15,000 international students made ASU their collegiate home in the 2021–22 academic year.
- International Students represent over 158 countries at ASU.
- Many of the students come from the 10/40 Window which is where many of the remaining unreached peoples for the Gospel live.
- Ali's story

The Great Migration
and
The Great Challenge

The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:35-40

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment. The second is like it Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Great Commandment

Mark 12:28-31

‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The Great Commission

Mark 16:15-16

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

The Great Commission

Luke 24:45-49

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Great Commission

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The Great Challenge

Matthew 10:37-39

“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

The Great Challenge

Matthew 16:24-26

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

The Great Challenge

Mark 8:34-38

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

The Great Challenge

Luke 9:23-25

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

The Great Challenge

Luke 14:25-27

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33-34

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.³⁴ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?”

The Great Challenge

Luke 17:32-33

“Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.”

John 12:24-26

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

The Great Challenge

Six times Jesus said,

“Anyone who wants to seeks to save his life will lose it but anyone who loses it for my sake will find it.”

If you remember anything from this message please remember that.

Practically how do I get started?

- Come to the luncheon we're having after services where you can learn more.
- Consider being a part of a Welcome Team that helps resettle refugees.
- Come to MissionConnexion SW on November 3 and 4. One of the plenary session speakers was an international student from Saudi Arabia. Hear his story.
- Welcoming The Stranger by Matthew Sorens, Jenny Yang, Leith
- Seeking Refuge by Matthew Sorens

Matthew 25:31-36

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Habakkuk 2:14

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters covers the sea.”

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign^[b] on the earth.”