

# IMMIGRANTS, THE BIBLE, AND YOU

## Discussion Questions

### Chapter 1:

1. What are some influences (experiences, ideas, assumptions) that affect your attitude toward immigrants and refugees, positively or negatively?
2. Watch Chimamanda Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story.” How might our single stories about immigrants and refugees make our impressions incomplete? Give some examples.  
([Ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story))
3. Choose one immigrant or refugee that you know and commit to praying for them for the next week. How does praying for someone change the way you think about them?

### Chapter 2:

1. Read Genesis 16:1-16. What do you notice about God’s attention to Hagar? What do you think this story tells us about God and his redemptive purposes?
2. Go out for coffee (or have dinner) with someone who recently immigrated to this country. Invite them to share their story. What vulnerabilities and challenges did they experience? What gifts, skills, and training do they have? What are their hopes and aspirations?
3. Spend some time reflecting on the concept of “election.” How does this impact your understanding of the Christian’s calling or task as it relates to the world? How does this impact the way you think about refugees, asylum seekers, and/or migrants who are fleeing violence, persecution, and poverty?

## Chapter 3:

1. What do you think it means to be created in the image of God? What implications does this have for how we think and act toward immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers?
2. As a wealthy nation with significant resources, do you think we have a moral responsibility to those fleeing their homeland because of persecution and poverty? What should the participation of the US be in receiving refugees and asylum seekers?
3. Consider someone you know who has migrated to the United States. How have they contributed positively to the community? In what ways do you see the image of God in them?

## Chapter 4:

1. Imagine for a moment that you have to flee your home. Where would you go? How would you get there? What difficulties, challenges, and dangers would you anticipate along the way? Who would you turn to for help? What would be especially hard to give up or leave behind? What would you be feeling?
2. Spend some time speaking to recent immigrants (particularly asylum seekers or refugees) to find out about their needs. What would help them settle well in this land? What do they need to flourish here?
3. What are some practical ways in which the church can “love” the immigrant?

## Chapter 5:

1. Consider your own family's immigration story. When did your family/ancestors come to this land? What was that experience like? How is it the same and different from the experiences of immigrants today?
2. Not only do undocumented workers not have access to many social services. They are also denied many of the privileges we take for granted, like acquiring a driver's license or travelling across the border for vacation or to visit family and friends. Because of the increased efforts of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), many live in fear of being deported to a country that is no longer home. What do you think it is like to live this way? What are some of the greatest challenges? What do you think justice looks like for the undocumented migrant?
3. Many denominations and Christian organizations have resources that can help Christians use their influence and voice to advocate for immigrants. The Office of Social Justice with the Christian Reformed Church is one such denominational resource. Spend some time this week visiting their website to discern how you can get involved: <http://justice.crcna.org/immigration>.

## Chapter 6:

1. What are some things you have learned from immigrants in your community?
2. It is one thing to welcome the presence of immigrants into our communities. What would it take not only to welcome and enfold immigrants but to empower and learn from them as well? How might you create opportunities for mutual blessing?
3. Pray for your own church community. How might God be leading your church to build relationships with immigrants or immigrant communities?