

JRS/USA ADVENT CALENDAR

Take time each day this Advent to walk in solidarity with refugees and displaced persons through moments of prayer, reflection, and advocacy. It's an opportunity to see Christ revealed through God's people and it's a journey worth taking.



1
Offer your prayers for refugees and displaced persons, especially for those separated from their families.

Read and reflect on Genesis 18: 1-8 – What lessons can be learned from Abraham and Sarah's hospitality? What strangers have entered your life, bearing good news?



2

In Syrian culture, if someone visits you without prior notice, it is expected that you will stop what you are doing and make every effort to be as hospitable as possible. How can you show hospitality today?

3



4
Reach out to your local parish, community center, or refugee resettlement agency. Inquire about opportunities to prepare a meal for a family in need.



5
Share a message of hope and comfort with a refugee by sending a postcard through JRS/USA's Any Refugee Program:
jrsusa.org/any-refugee

Take a moment to learn about a JRS program in another country:
jrsusa.org/where-we-work



6



7
Look up cultural information about one of the displaced populations that JRS serves—what values are held in common with you?

Offer a prayer for those fleeing violence and persecution. Pray for safety during their journey.

8



9
Read and reflect on Matthew 2:13-15 — Imagine being a part of this scene. How does it play out in modern day?

Most refugees are forced to make a split-second decision as they flee from their home. What one item would you grab if you were forced to flee your home?

10

Many refugees that are resettled in the US do not arrive prepared for a colder climate. Consider connecting with a local agency to donate a winter coat that will supply families in need of winter clothing.

11

Identify a group within your school or parish community that does work to support refugees—both locally and globally. Learn more about what they do. If there isn't one, consider starting one of your own and we have a resource to help you!
jrsusa.org/take-action

12

Fleeing from your home is a traumatic experience. Offer a prayer for all those in need of psychosocial support and for their caregivers.



13



14
Look up statistics about refugees or immigrants in your community.

Offer a prayer for all school-aged refugee children, especially for those who are unable to attend school.



15



16
Read and reflect on Exodus 22:20— In what ways do we oppress the stranger? How can we show greater hospitality?

More than 1/2 of school-aged refugees are NOT in school. What can you do to support refugee education?



17

Refugee girls are more likely to face barriers to school enrollment, such as dangerous journeys to school, lack of access to menstrual hygiene, and/or household demands and early marriage. Offer a prayer for fair and safe access to education for children.

18

When most children in the U.S. travel to school by car or bus, shoes are the vehicle for many of the children JRS serves. Did you know that \$25 provides a pair of shoes for two children in Kenya?

19



20
Subscribe to JRS/USA's Action Alerts. If you are already subscribed, invite a friend!
jrsusa.org/take-action



21
Send a letter to your elected officials and urge them to demonstrate leadership on refugee issues.

Offer a prayer for peace and reconciliation.



22



23
Read and reflect on Hebrews 13:1-2 – You may be entertaining angels this Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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