



## THE WIN

The purpose of this week's study is to gain a new understanding of God's great love for those who are immigrants in our country and that we would be challenged to reflect His love and compassion.

3-5  
minutes

### SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**Leader Tip:** The Taboo sermon series is loaded with many diverse and possibly emotionally volatile social perspectives. As leaders, it is necessary that we prepare for our meetings bathed in prayer. It may also be helpful to begin the meeting by sharing with your group the importance of unity (Eph. 4:3) and authenticity. Our hope is that our people will be able to share their hearts and minds but with the goal of seeking direction and truth from God's word. Explain that these studies are to include dialogue and discussion but respectfully request that they not be a series of debates.

In the message this week from Deuteronomy 10:12-19 we learned that God is the owner and ruler over all things, that He is not partial or prejudiced and He requires us to show compassion and share the same hope He has given to us to those who are immigrants.

3-5  
minutes

## WARM UP

### Ask This:

- What are some honest concerns you have about the issue of immigration control?
- If you could rewrite one immigration law what would it say?
- Where did your ancestors migrate from?

30-35  
minutes

### THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

### SAY THIS:

Someone please read Deuteronomy 10:12-19, and will someone else read Matthew 28:18-20?

### ASK THIS:

- What similarities did you discover between the two passages?
- What do you think God's perspective is concerning boundaries and ownership of land?
- Why do you think 1 Peter 2:11 refers to the believer as "strangers and temporary residents"? How does this perspective help us identify with immigrants who come to America?

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**SAY THIS:**

Someone please read Romans 13:1-4

**ASK THIS:**

- In light of Deuteronomy 10:12-19, Matthew 28:18-20, and Romans 13:1-4, how do these scriptures bring clarity or confusion into our current immigration situation?
- In what ways do you think it is possible to reconcile the ideas of welcoming immigrants and upholding the law?

**SAY THIS:**

Someone please read Acts 17:26-27

**ASK THIS:**

- Since our nation's government is struggling to make decisions on how to enforce or relax current laws, what is our political responsibility?
- Do we have a responsibility to speak out if human's laws are in opposition to God's laws? If yes, what is the most appropriate way to do this?
- According to these scriptures, what should our attitude be toward the immigrants who are living here?

**WATCH THIS:**

<http://www.urbanentry.org/index.php/videos/ue4-send-these>

**ASK THIS:**

- What would be your advice to Michael?
- To what extreme would you go if you lived in a country where there was no opportunity to feed your family?
- How do you think immigration and diversity has made an impact on America's historic strength and exceptionalism?

**WATCH THIS:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhcQ9p7WP4g>

**ASK THIS:**

- In what ways did this video change or embolden your view on immigration?
- What are your views on the local church providing resources towards illegal immigrants?
- What were your thoughts towards the leader who said "The system has to change, which means I have to interject myself into the political process."?
- How can we as a group be active in showing compassion towards immigrants?

**Leader Tip:** if you sense your group desires to partner with a local ministry that ministers to immigrants watch this video from world Relief. <http://worldrelieffortworth.org/volunteer-opportunities>

3-5  
minutes



## DIGGING DEEPER

**DO THIS:**

Assign different members to read different parts. Have all the group read in unison the parts labeled "Group."

**ADAM:** Our names are Adam and Eve. We disobeyed our Creator and were sent into exile to till and live off the land.

**EVE:** We can't go home. Will you welcome us?

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**Immigration Officer:** Do you have documents giving you permission to be here? The United States welcomes only persons with proper travel documents. If you don't have permission to be here, we cannot welcome you. We are sorry, but you must go.

**NOAH:** My name is Noah. There was a great flood! Only my family and the animals—two of each kind—survived. Our home is gone. Please take us in.

**Immigration Officer:** Natural disasters need to be dealt with where they happened. We can't take everyone in. You are migrants. Sorry, go somewhere else. Our laws do not provide a place for you.

**JOSEPH:** I am Joseph. My brothers sold me into slavery. I was brought to the United States to work. Please help me.

**Immigration Officer:** Slavery is against the law. We don't have slaves in the United States. You must have the proper documents to work here. You have no legal right to be here. Sorry, you will be sent home.

**JOSEPH:** I am Joseph. My brothers sold me into slavery. I was brought to the United States to work. Please help me.

**Immigration Officer:** Slavery is against the law. We don't have slaves in the United States. You must have the proper documents to work here. You have no legal right to be here. Sorry, you will be sent home.

**MOSES:** My name is Moses. I killed an Egyptian who was mistreating my people. I had to flee. Please, please protect me.

**Immigration Officer:** You are a criminal alien. There are laws against people like you. The United States doesn't give asylum to criminals. Sorry, you will be sent back. We have enough of our own criminals

**JOSEPH:** I am Joseph. This is my wife, Mary, and our son, Jesus. We have had to flee our country because the king is killing all the boys under two years of age.

**MARY:** We fled in the middle of the night. We have nothing, and we have no identification. Will you give us work and sanctuary and asylum?

**Immigration Officer:** We are willing to help you, but there are laws that have to be followed. Our law states that if you enter without documents, you have to seek asylum from prison. Joseph, you will go to one prison. Mary, you will go to another, and Jesus, you will go to a third (until we find foster care for you, that is). We are sorry, but that's the law.

**JESUS:** They call me Jesus. I come begging for help for my 12 friends. When we got off the plane, we asked for asylum. My friends were being persecuted in our homeland for following me. But the U.S. government officials didn't believe us. Everyone but me is in expedited removal; they are all being sent back. I managed to slip away and came here to this church to ask for help.

**Immigration Officer:** The United States has laws to keep out terrorists. You are one of a group of 13 Middle Eastern men we've heard about. You meet in rented rooms, you go into the mountains for private meetings, no one knows where you get your money, and you travel by boat and meet with strangers. You are trying to organize the poor and the oppressed. You could very well be a terrorist. Expedited removal will make certain you can't harm us. We are sorry, but you and the 12 other men will have to leave. It's the law.

\* *Immigration and the Bible:* By Joan M. Maruskin

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## CLOSING THOUGHT

*86% of the immigrant population in North America are likely to either be Christians or become Christians. That's far above the national average...The immigrant population actually presents the greatest hope for Christian renewal in North America... This group that we want to keep out is actually the group that we most need for spiritual transformation... We shouldn't see this as something that threatens us. We should see this as a wonderful opportunity.*

*Timothy Tennent Missiologist & President, Asbury Theological Seminary*