

Dag 3 – Woensdag

“I was a stranger
and you invited
me in”

—Jesus (Matthew 25:35)



What is the challenge? Sleep on the floor tonight.

Most of us have a place we call home. Home might look different to everyone; some people might live in a big house, others in a small house. But for most of us, home is where we live and spend time with our family.

Around the world, more than 65 million people have been forced to flee their homes because of things like war and disaster. People leave because they fear their lives and their families' future. The decision to leave home could happen suddenly or take a long time after months or even years of the situation getting worse. Fighting in countries like Syria, Iran, and South Sudan is still forcing people from their homes or keeping them from going back. Natural disasters, like famine, cyclones, and unpredictable weather patterns can also force people from their homes. So, tonight, instead of sleeping in your bed, make your bed on the floor, and while you're reading the words of the verse in Matthew 25 again, think of those who do not have a place they can call home.

Activity: Hard choices, distant dreams

Over 65 million people around the world have been forced out of their homes by things like war and hunger. And the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic are forcing more people from their homes all the time. Today, you can choose from two activities to help your family understand the plight of refugees and other displaced people.

1. Dreaming of the future

When World Vision helps people who have left their homes as a result of crisis, we create Child-Friendly Spaces where kids can safely play, recover from frightening experiences, and learn during the time that they're out of school. One popular and helpful activity is having kids draw their dreams for the future. Watch this video

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkPuYRhOpV8>) for inspiration before starting the following activity.

Younger kids – *“What do you want to be when you grow up?”*

Older kids – *“What is one of your dreams – something you would really like to accomplish?”*

Discussion:

1. Take a few minutes to have each person in your family talk about their dreams, then draw them.
2. Give everyone a chance to talk about their dreams and why they have them. How are you trying to reach your dreams? What in your life may make it easy or hard? Is your family a part of your dreams?
3. Talk about the circumstances that refugee children face. They don't have homes, and sometimes they have to work just to make money to buy food. Because they left their schools behind, it's hard for them to study and learn. What kind of dreams do you think they have? How do you think they're the same or different from yours?

2. What would you take?

Watch this video – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oBudn3Cb1l>

1. As a family, talk about how you would feel if you had to leave home quickly because of a flood, a wildfire, or another emergency. Take a little time to think about what you would do to quickly prepare.
2. Spend five minutes writing a list or drawing the things you would want to take with you.
3. Talk about your lists or drawings. Why did you make your choices? How did you feel about the choices you had to make? What was hard, and what was easy?

Dinner devotional questions:

1. How is going on a holiday different from being a displaced person?
2. Have you ever been a new kid at school, or started a new job? If so, what did it feel like? If not, how do you think it would feel to be a stranger in a new place?

3. Did you know that countries and communities sometimes have conflicts or natural disasters, like famine, that force people to leave their homes to stay safe?
3. People who leave their countries because they are fleeing a conflict or fleeing a natural disaster like famine are called “refugees.” Refugees often have to live in a camp or in crowded apartments in cities. Some of them are able to try to make a new home in another country that is very different from their own. How can we be kind to people who have had to leave their homes?
4. How can we share the stories of people who have lost their homes so that other people have sympathy for them?

Ways to pray

Now take some time to pray for displaced people and refugees.

- Pray that God would protect children and families from harm in war zones.
- Pray that families who have had to leave their homes will find safety, be able to stay together, and be able to recover from their experiences.
- Pray for organisations that are trying to help these families, and that other people around the world won't forget about their needs.