



Remembering Refugees

Participants should assemble around the Advent Wreath each week during Advent. Lights should be dimmed as people gather in silence and then turned out after all are settled. Recorded music may be played so as to keep the meditative mood. If the prayer service is used in a school or parish setting, after the closing song each week, an older student can come forward to light a votive candle and quietly lead the procession of students to their classrooms as they meditate on the refugees' journey for which they have just prayed. The candle is extinguished at the end of the journey to class.

WEEK 1 : Light one purple candle

Reader 1: Read *Genesis 3:20-24* (Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden)

Reader 2: Adam and Eve were given everything by God. They were made in His image and likeness. The life and love they shared with God was perfect, however, they wanted something more. They chose not to trust in God's love or to serve Him. They disobeyed Him – this was the first sin. They left the Garden in exile. But God promised a Savior to bring us back as his children.

Reader 3: Read *Luke 1: 26-35* (The Annunciation)

Reader 4: God our Father, thank you for creating the earth and each one of us. Help us to remember how much we depend on you and need you in our lives. We pray for children forced to flee Syria where there is war and famine, sickness, and poverty. These children wait for help. As we wait for the birth of the Savior, help us and other young missionaries to reach out to these children in Your love.

Closing Song: The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

WEEK 2: Light two purple candles

Reader 1: Read *Genesis 12:1-5* (God calls Abram to leave his home)

Reader 2: Abram was 75 years old when he left his home. He heard God calling him and walked with his family to a far away land in Canaan. Abram trusted in God's plan through many hard times. He was called to bring together a people and a nation that would be known as Israel, meaning God's people.

Reader 3: Read *Luke:1-46-55* (Mary's Magnificat)

Reader 4: God our Father, thank you for giving us Abram, who become Abraham, our father in faith. He believed in Your promise to Israel and stayed close to You. Mary trusted in You too, when she said "yes" to follow Your plan to help save a world that was lost and became the mother of Your Son. We pray for Syrian children who are in refugee camps in Jordan who need to feel You near them in this uncertain time, just as Mary and Abram did. As we wait for the birth of the

Savior, help us and other young missionaries to reach out to these children in Your love.

Closing Song: Holy is His Name

WEEK 3: Light two purple candles and one rose candle

Reader 1: Read *Exodus 12: 37-42; 16:1-4* (Israelite Flight)

Reader 2: The Israelites were glad to leave Egypt. They spent 40 years walking through the hot dry desert, often very hungry and angry with God and Moses. But God was always close to them, even though they had no real home and didn't know exactly where the 'promised land' was.

Reader 3: Read *Psalms 107: 1-9, 33-38*

Reader 4: God our Father, You led your people to safety. Please be near to the children who are now refugees, fleeing Syria and entering the camps in Jordan. They must feel like the Israelites who don't know where their real home will be. As we wait for the birth of the Savior, help us and other young missionaries to reach out to these children in Your love.

Closing Song: Lead Me Lord

WEEK 4: Light all four candles

Reader 1: Read *Isaiah 9: 1 and 5, 11:1-3* (Prophecy of Jesus)

Reader 2: Everyone was waiting for the Child born to us over 2000 years ago: the Light of the World – Emmanuel – "God With Us" – God's own Son.

Reader 3: Read *Matthew 1: 18-25*

Reader 4: God our Father, thank you for sending us your Son to save us all. Be near us in a special way this Advent and Christmas. Hear our prayer for the refugee children suffering in the Middle East. As we wait for the birth of the Savior, help us and other young missionaries to reach out to these children in Your love.

Closing Song: O Come O Come Emmanuel