

Participant's Guide

Episode 20

Caring For Refugees and Immigrants

Summary

The greatly increased number of immigrants and refugees seeking healthcare in the U.S. provides a wonderful opportunity to communicate the love of Christ through the care we provide. However, special challenges are also caused by cultural and attitudinal differences. This episode denotes some of those unique challenges and how we can overcome them as we share the love of Christ with our international friends.

Speaker

Drs. Andrew and Esther are both family medicine physicians currently working at a clinic that serves a large population of refugees and immigrants. They love coming up with creative ways to serve their community. They enjoy spending time with their two kids, going on hikes and making meals together. Email them at DrsEandA@gmail.com.

Discussion Questions

1. What from this video inspired, edified or challenged you?
2. What can we learn from the Bible with regard to our calling to show kindness to refugees from the following passages:
 - a. Mark 12:31 -
 - b. Leviticus 19:34, Exodus 12:49 -
 - c. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 -
 - d. Deuteronomy 27:19 -
 - e. Hebrews 13:1-2 -
 - f. 1 Peter 1:1, Philippians 3:20 -
3. What are some of the barriers to caring for refugees and immigrants?
4. Is there sometimes a language barrier between you and your patients? What are some possible ways to overcome this barrier?

5. What qualities do we need to cultivate in order to “understand” our sojourner patients? Consider Philippians 2:3-5, Ephesians 4:2, James 1:19, etc.
 - a. Philippians 2:3-5 –
 - b. Ephesians 4:2 –
 - c. James 1:19 –
6. Dr. Andrew tells a story of a refugee patient, a physician in his home country, who was having a panic attack. This patient received the treatment he needed, and the compassionate care he received eventually led him to faith in Jesus Christ. Have you seen any patients who turned to Christ during the course of their treatment? What were the key factors in their transformation?
7. What are some practical steps we can take to address the barriers to refugee treatment?
8. Dr. Jeff Amstutz cites the fact that approximately 25 percent of U.S. doctors (both physicians and dentists) are immigrants, and he shares a story of a cardiologist who received the gospel as it was shared with him by a medical colleague.
 - a. Do you have any colleagues who are immigrants?
 - b. Have you had any spiritual conversations with them? Why or why not?
9. Dr. Kristin Martel exhorts us to make our treatment area a “sanctuary” for our international patients. What are ideas of how we can do this, and how might the Lord work through our efforts in such an environment?
10. Dr. Andrew and Esther’s clinic has regular times of celebration. Do you celebrate at your office? Consider the following verses as they relate to the benefits of regular times of celebration:
 - a. Proverbs 15:15 -
 - b. James 1:17a –
 - c. Psalms 126:3 –
 - d. Nehemiah 8:10 –
11. What is one take-home item from today’s session that you hope to implement?

Additional Resources

1. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility* by Duane Elmer
2. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: A Model for Effective Personal Relationships* by Sherwood G. Lingenfelter