

Rockford Reformed Church
Matthew 2:13-15 - “Refugees With Refuge”
12/16/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. _____ rages to produce _____ and refugees.

- a. Read Matthew 9:27-37. If you were to see as Jesus sees (in Mt. 9:36), what would you see in your neighborhood, workplace, school, or while shopping? Who do you think about as those who are struggling and rejected in your community?

- b. Read Jer. 7:13-15, Psalm 51:11, Rom. 2:9. What works to make us refugees who are alienated or separated from God? How much does this struggle still make you restless and why?

2. Jesus became a rejected _____ to become a _____.

- a. Read Matt. 2:15, Hosea 11:1-2, Heb. 2:17-18. Jesus left home to become a refugee who was repeatedly rejected—even by his Father, so that we, who deserve to be rejected, could come home to be perfectly loved and accepted by our Father. How does it help for you to know that Jesus has taken the same path and understands your struggle and rejection?

- b. Read Psalm 91:1-2, Heb. 6:17-19. What does it mean that God is your refuge? Describe a time when God wonderfully served as your refuge or as the sure anchor for your soul. In what circumstances might you particularly celebrate that Jesus became homeless so that you would forever have a home?

3. Be a _____ for refugees.

- a. Jesus became a refugee to provide us with refuge so that we will be a refuge for others. Read Deut. 10:17-19, Mt. 25:35. What does it mean to be “beggars telling other beggars where to find bread”? We saw how we should understand and feel the painful wandering of the refugees and orphans every day. How can we remain sensitive and faithfully act toward those in need?

- b. How does this message change the way you see and think about those around you every day? How might God be calling you to be a refuge? How can you take one step in this direction in the coming weeks?

Additional resources to consider:

Paul Tripp is an excellent gospel-centered teacher/author who provides an app, weekly devotionals, video teaching and additional resources at paultripp.com. He has authored many helpful books including one called **Parenting**.

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