



Teaching Guide for Children

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Leader Background Information

Kentucky Baptists observe the Season of Prayer for State Missions during September. This year's suggested date is September 10-17, 2017. The theme is **Rise Up and Shine**.

In Isaiah 60:1-4a, we read, "Rise up and shine, for your light has come. The shining-greatness of the Lord has risen upon you. For see, darkness will cover the earth. Much darkness will cover the people. But the Lord will rise upon you, and His shining-greatness will be seen upon you. Nations will come to your light. And kings will see the shining-greatness of the Lord on you. Lift up your eyes and look around you, and see. They all gather together. They come to you."

This passage can serve as a challenge to believers in Kentucky where the nations have come to dwell among us. We must make the most of every opportunity to share Christ with the internationals that God has drawn to our state.

This study will focus on the ministry of Refuge Louisville and the Welcome Teams that Refuge equips to work with local resettlement agencies and refugees arriving in Louisville.

More information about Refuge Louisville and Welcome Teams can be found in this study and in the Master Article which is included with the other 2017 state missions materials.

Teaching Options

This study can be used instead of one of the sessions in the GA, RA, Children in Action, or other children's ministry lesson plans in September. You may also choose to set aside a special time for this study during the Season of Prayer. Please make additional copies of this material as needed.

Session Outcomes

Through this study children will:

- Learn how Refuge Louisville partners with churches in Louisville through the training and sending of welcome teams.
- Discover how welcome teams can shine the light of Jesus on refugees in Kentucky.
- Be challenged to support Kentucky missions and ministries like Refuge by giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering® for state missions.
- Be led to pray for Refuge Louisville.
- Be led to pray for the church welcome teams that are reaching out to refugees.
- Be led to pray for refugees coming into Louisville and Kentucky.

2017 State Missions Emphasis Highlights

Suggested Date: September 10-17, 2017

Suggested Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-5 New Life Version, with verse 1a as focal verse: "Rise up and shine, for your light has come."

Music Suggestions: Rise Up, O Men of God; Rise and Shine; Arise, Your Light Is Come; Sunlight; Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone); Lead Me to the Cross; Shine, Let Your Light Shine

Master Article (print from DVD/web) with information about ministries in Kentucky.

Videos:

- Introduction to 2017 Emphasis & Resources
- Thank You from Joy Bolton
- International Students
- Friendship International
- Ethnic/Language Missions
- Internationals in Your Community – Nik Ripken
- Bonus Videos: Operation Inasmuch and others

All 2017 state missions materials and videos are also available online: www.kywmu.org/ebo

Teacher Preparation

Secure a copy of the 2017 Rise Up and Shine DVD or visit the state missions page on the web. Resources referenced in this teaching plan to be printed are found on the enhanced DVD and on the web (kywmu.org/ebo).

Background Information

- Print the Master Article. Read it to learn about ministries with internationals.
- Read the Leaders Guide for Children.

A Furnished Apartment

- Print a set of Furnished Apt Activity pages for each child in the class.
- Collect scissors and glue sticks or tape to be used during the activity.

Filling a Welcome Basket

- Print a Welcome Basket Seek and Find page for each child in the class.
- Collect pencils/pens to be used during the activity.

Airport Arrival

- Print a set of the Airport Signs or improvise and make your own airport signs.
- On the sign that says “Welcome,” add the name of your missions group, or their individual names.
- Pick a room and or hallway at your church that can be used as an “airport terminal.”
- Hang the signs in various places throughout your “terminal” so the children will walk through them after arriving on their “flight.”
- The “Welcome” sign should be the last one they come to. Have one of the class teachers, or an adult volunteer, hold the sign. The sign holder should be smiling and happy to greet the arriving “refugees.”
- The meaning of the signs, in the order that they will print:
 - Sign 1
 - Immigration; Passport and Visa Check (left image)
 - Customs (right image)

- Sign 2 – Baggage Claim
- Sign 3 – ATM
- Sign 4 – McDonalds
- Sign 5 – Coffee Shop
- Sign 6 – Family Bathroom
- Sign 7 – Charging Station (for electronic devices)
- Sign 8 – Please Do Not Litter
- Sign 9 – Video Monitoring: This Object is Monitored Electronically
- Sign 10 – Welcome!

The First Three Months

- Read and be prepared to share the information under this section in the Leaders Guide.

Milestone Party

- Bake cupcakes, cookies, or some other sweet treat for the children to enjoy during this activity.
- Prepare punch, or similar type drink, for the Milestone Party.
- Collect small paper plates, napkins, and cups to use during this activity.

EBO Welcome Banks

- Print an EBO Bank Pictures page for each child in the class.
- Collect scissors and glue sticks or tape to use during this activity.
- Collect small containers (chip cans, snack boxes, jars, or something similar) to use as collection banks.

Prayer Time

- Be prepared to lead the children in praying for Refuge Louisville and the refugee families coming to the United States.



Leading the Session

Opening

If you are substituting this lesson plan for one of the sessions from your GA, RA, or Children in Action leader guide be sure to begin your time with the children just like you would begin a regular session. Say your group's respective pledges, mottos, and memory verses, as well as an opening prayer.

Inform the children that this session is unique because it is a part of the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering®. For more basic information about the Season of Prayer and EBO, please refer to the church-wide promotion guide in the state mission materials.

Tell the children that during the lesson they will learn about Refuge Louisville and how Welcome Teams work to make refugees feel welcome to the area by meeting immediate needs and sharing the love of Christ with them.

Ask: *Who can tell me what a refugee is?* (Allow several children the opportunity to answer.) Supplement or refine the children's answers with the following definition from the UN Refugee Agency:

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so.

Say: *Every year millions of refugees leave their countries of origin and go to other countries seeking a place to live in safety. Thousands of these refugees have come to the United States, and many of them have found their way to Louisville, Kentucky. They have come looking for hope, peace, and a better life.*

Refuge Louisville is a ministry in the city that seeks to empower local churches to embrace refugees as their neighbors with the love of Christ. One of the ways they do this is by recruiting and training Welcome Teams that partner with Refuge and local resettlement agencies to provide special care for the refugee families when they first arrive in Louisville and through their first few months of resettlement. Welcome Teams allow Christians to be the first people that refugees meet when they arrive in America. These teams are also able to enter the refugees' world and build relationships that allow them to share the love of God and the Gospel of Christ with the refugees. By welcoming and assisting refugee families, Refuge and the Welcome Teams are able to rise up and shine the light of Christ into the lives of refugees.

Tell the children that the activities in this lesson will demonstrate how Welcome Teams help refugees during their first months in Louisville.

A Furnished Apartment

Say: *One of the first things a Welcome Team does for their assigned refugee family is set up the apartment for the incoming family. The resettlement agency brings donated furniture to the apartment where the team arranges the different items in the appropriate rooms.*

Display the three pages that show empty rooms in an apartment. Ask: *How would you feel if you had to move into an apartment that looked like this? Where would you sleep? Where would you sit to eat? Would you be comfortable?* (Allow time for the children to respond. Ask additional questions as needed.)

Give each child a set of pages with the three empty rooms. Also give them a set of pages with the furniture items. Provide scissors and glue/tape. Let the children cut out the pictures of furniture and place them in the rooms where they think the items would be most useful. As the children "furnish" the apartment rooms on the pages, encourage them to think about the difference between moving into a furnished and unfurnished apartment.

Ask: *How do you think the refugee family feels when they arrive at their new apartment to find it set up and ready for them to move in?*

This is one of the ways the Welcome Team demonstrates the love of Christ to the refugee family.

Filling a Welcome Basket

Say: Another thing the team does before the refugees arrive is purchase groceries for the family and prepare a welcome basket. Refuge Louisville provides the Welcome Team with a list of household supplies and toiletry items to put in a laundry basket.

Give each child a pencil and a copy of the Welcome Basket Seek and Find activity page. Tell them the items listed in the word bank are just some of the toiletry and household items that are put into the welcome basket. Give the children time to complete the activity page.

When the children have completed the page, ask: *What other items do you think would be good to place in the welcome basket?* (Give appropriate affirmations and corrections as the children offer their answers.)

Supplement the children's answers with these additional items: Bathroom cleanser, all-purpose cleaner, fabric softener, handi-wipes, scrubbers, plastic wrap/foil, cotton swabs, shaving cream, feminine pads, cold medicines, broom, mop, and trash cans.

Ask: When people reach out to you and help you with the things that you need, particularly in a new and uncertain situation, how does that make you feel? A furnished apartment, food in the pantry, and a basket full of needed household items would certainly help me feel welcome. Refuge Louisville and the Welcome Team wants the refugee family to feel that way too.

Airport Arrival

Say: Imagine having to move to another country where the people speak a language you do not understand. After a long flight on an airplane, you arrive in a strange airport. What do you expect to see? What would you need? What would you look for? (Allow children to give answers to these questions.) After several answers have been given, take the children through the hallway or room that you have prepared with the airport signs. Lead the group slowly through the signs, allowing them time to talk with one another about the signs they see. Do not explain the signs to the children while they are walking through the activity. Be sure they reach the person holding the "Welcome" sign at the end.

Ask: What did you recognize? What was frustrating or confusing? What was helpful and comforting? (Allow children to respond to these questions. Explain the meaning for any of the signs they did not understand.)

Ask: Were you glad to see the "Welcome" sign at the end? (Allow answers.)

Say: After a long and tiring flight, the refugees find themselves in a very unfamiliar setting. Seeing a smiling group of people holding a welcome sign with their name on it can be a very comforting sight. This is one of the first things the Welcome Team does for the refugee family when they arrive in Louisville. After learning from the resettlement agency when the flight will arrive, the Welcome Team meets the family at the terminal and transports them to their waiting apartment. This is when the team begins to build relationships with the refugees.

The First Three Months

Say: The first three months are a very crucial time for the refugee family in their new home. During this time, they are learning how to adjust to their new community and culture. The Welcome Team helps the family with transportation as much as possible and spends time with them often. They help the refugees read mail, search for jobs, fill out forms, and go to appointments. Teams also aid the family as they learn where to shop for the things they need, how to use the public transportation system, and anything else they need to know to become more independent in their new community.

As the Welcome Team and the refugee family get to know each other during these early days, the team is demonstrating the love of God through the help and encouragement they provide. Team members also find opportunities to share the truth of the Gospel with the family during this time. This may happen through one-on-one witnessing, the gift of a Bible, or the showing of the Jesus film. The refugees are often eager to learn about the God who calls His people to welcome strangers with open arms, open hearts, and open lives.

Milestone Party

Pass out the snacks that you have prepared for the Milestone Party. Say: *At the end of three months, the Welcome Team throws a Milestone Party for the refugee family. The party usually involves a shared meal but also includes something sweet like the cupcakes or cookies that we are having during our party. This party is an opportunity to celebrate the refugee family making it through their first three months in the United States.*

Many Welcome Teams will continue their relationships with the refugee family beyond the first three months, though that is not a part of the initial team member commitment. If the Welcome Team is unable to continue beyond three months, another Refuge partner is introduced to the family for continual relational support and an ongoing Gospel witness.

EBO Welcome Banks

Say: *There are many ways that we can help Refuge Louisville as they rise up and shine the light of Christ into the lives of refugees. One way is by giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. Money from EBO helps Refuge Louisville train welcome teams from partnering churches in Louisville. This training includes different language Bibles and Jesus films, evangelism materials, ESL training, team translators, and other ongoing training needs.*

Have the children cut out the three pictures on the “EBO Bank Pictures” page. Give them time to glue or tape the pictures to the jars, boxes, or cans that you have provided for their banks. Ask the children to take the banks home and use them to collect an offering to give to EBO.

Prayer Time

Say: *In addition to giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering, we can also help by praying.*

Share with the children the following prayer requests:

- Pray for international refugees who are coming to Kentucky.
- Pray for local churches to organize welcome teams.
- Pray for the welcome teams as they help refugees get settled, navigate their new environment, learn English, and find jobs.
- Pray for the welcome teams to share Jesus with refugees as they are helping them.

Ask for volunteers to pray for Refuge Louisville. After the volunteers pray, close the class with a final prayer.

About the lesson writer: Jon Auten serves as the Royal Ambassadors/Challengers Consultant for Kentucky WMU.

Missions Organizations for Children

As a leader of children in your church, you can teach them to “Rise Up and Shine” through Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Children in Action. These missions organizations:

- Help children apply the Bible to their lives
- Teach children what God desires of them and are encouraged to live out the Great Commission
- Teach children the importance of tithing and giving to support missions
- Teach children how God is at work in the world through missions stories
- Teach children how to pray and intercede for others

For help in starting missions education for children, contact Kentucky WMU:

- Stacy Nall, Preschool/Children’s Consultant
- Jon Auten, Royal Ambassadors Consultant

Kentucky WMU sponsors a number of missions events and activities for children throughout the year. Learn more: kywmu.org/children.