



November 16, 2025

Sermon Title: Loving the Nations and Neighborhoods Where They Are
by: Anya Holcomb

Scriptures: Ruth 1-4, Daniel 6

Some quick statistics:

- 1 in 27 people in the world today are international migrants
- There are currently 51.9 million immigrants in the US, representing about 15.4 percent of the U.S. population. One in 7 people living in America today were not born here.
- There are currently 117.3 million forcibly displaced people in the world, including 42.5 million refugees.

God uses the movement of people for His purposes and to bring about 2-way transformation...

Big Idea #1: Transformation in people who move – examples: Ruth (Moabitess); Abtin

1st invitation for us: Let's join God in his transformative work in the lives of our global neighbors, and transformation in places they go.

Over 35 times in the Old Testament, God says to love Immigrants – foreigners, strangers & sojourners.

Welcome our global neighbors with love and care, support them practically as they rebuild their lives in our communities, and share the hope & story of Jesus.

Big Idea #2: Transformation in places they go – Daniel (Babylonian exile); Adela

2nd invitation for us: Let's be ready for God to transform our lives & our churches through our global neighbors.

Begin with a posture of humility and a recognition of the value our global neighbors bring to us.

Seek out opportunities to learn from and be led by our global neighbors.

God uses the movement of people to bring about 2-way transformation – transformation in people who move, and transformation in places they go.

Revelation 7:9 (NIV) - *"⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands."*

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. Think of a time when you were in an unfamiliar place or culture. How did it feel, and what helped you feel welcome?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word “foreigner”? Is it more about distance, difference, opportunity, or something else?

DISCUSSION

1. What was your reaction to the statistics Anya Holcomb shared about the unprecedented amount of human geographic movement in our world today? Share about an individual or family you know who has immigrated to the United States. What was their reason for moving here (employment, joining family members, climate disasters, poverty, education opportunities, forcible displacement)? How did God’s movement of them bring about transformation in their own life or others’ lives?
2. Read Leviticus 19:33-34 and Matthew 22:35-40. God calls His people to love, serve, and advocate for foreigners, reflecting His own inclusive and redemptive heart and to show compassion for those who find themselves in a new land, often feeling lost or disconnected. If you were an immigrant (foreigner, stranger, non-citizen), what would love, compassion and acts of kindness look like to you?
3. *“God uses the movement of people for His purpose.”* Review the following four different mechanisms of people movement God has used in the Old Testament history. What did God redemptively accomplish? What are some other examples from Anya Holcomb, the Old and New Testaments, church history and the modern missionary era (1800-present) and what did God accomplish?
 - a. Voluntary Going: Abraham to Canaan
 - b. Involuntary Going: Joseph sold into slavery in Egypt
 - c. Voluntary Coming: Ruth chose to go to Judah from Moab
 - d. Involuntary Coming: Gentiles settled in Israel by Cyrus the Great
4. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today, and what will you do differently as a result? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon you?

IN THE WORD

Review some of the scripture passages below and discuss how they are associated with this weekend’s sermon.

- Deuteronomy 10:17-19
- Matthew 25:35
- Hebrews 13:2

PRACTICE

- The Refugee Immersion Experience is being offered to help put you in the shoes of one of the tens of millions of global refugees and to understand what it is like to flee your home and country and enter a new country with a language you don’t speak and a culture you don’t understand.
- Join God in the transformation work in the lives of our global neighbors and the places they go. See or contact Pastor Rich Noble (rich.noble@acac.net) who leads ACAC’s Global Neighbor Ministries.