

*once we were
strangers*

What Friendship with a Syrian Refugee
Taught Me about Loving My Neighbor

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Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever looked at the world around you and felt the urge to take action? When did you sense this? What actions came to mind?
2. Name friends who encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone. Make concrete plans to spend time with them soon.
3. What other nationalities are represented in your community? Reach out to one person or family from another country and find out what brought them to your area.
4. Where would you go if a disaster happened in your community? To whom would you look for help?
5. Have you ever been in a foreign culture? How did you feel? What about it appealed to you, and what about it made you feel out of place?

Discussion Questions

6. How many hours would you have to work in a week to cover your monthly expenses if you made \$10 an hour?
7. To which cultures do you feel the most affinity or attraction? What is appealing about them?
8. Which cultures or nations do you fear the most? Why?
9. When you think of the word *Muslim*, what comes to mind?
10. Do you know the names of the people who live closest to you? Why or why not?
11. What about your life has involved the most red tape? Getting a license? Going to college? Buying a home? Who helped you navigate those applications?
12. If you moved to a foreign country where you knew no one and didn't speak the language, where would you begin? What are the first things you would try to do to get settled in?
13. The United States has welcomed immigrants and refugees for generations. When did your family arrive in the US? What language(s) did they speak?
14. What is it about where you live that makes it feel like home? If you had to move away, how would you begin making your new place into a home?

Discussion Questions

15. What situations have you had in life when you were the good Samaritan, helping others? When were you the one on the side of the road, needing help? When were you the manager of the hotel, watching someone help someone else?

16. Who do you think God might be asking you to become friends with?

Notes

1. “Executive Order Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” WhiteHouse.gov, January 27, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>.

2. Holly Hartman, “Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr,” Infoplease, accessed April 3, 2018, <https://www.infoplease.com/ramadan-and-eid-al-fitr>.

3. Rana F. Sweis, “Jordan Struggles under a Wave of Syrian Refugees,” *New York Times*, February 13, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/14/world/middleeast/jordan-syria-refugees.html>.