

110 th World Day of Migrants and Refugees

29th September 2024



Activities for Youth



World Day of
Migrants and
Refugees

29-IX-2024



"God walks with His People"

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Introduction



Today the church celebrates' World Day of Migrants and Refugees and the theme for the day is “God walks with His People.” So, on this day let's discuss and dwell upon the consequences of migration and the plight of the refugees all over the world. This global crisis has

its profound impact on our youth. Migration is not merely a demographic shift; it's a transformative journey that alters lives, cultures, and futures. We shall delve deep into the topic through two activities.

Activity 1:

This activity is designed to familiarize ourselves with one another and to explore the theme “God walks with His People” while allowing the youth to express their God experiences.

Number of Participants: Flexible as per the group

Age: 18 - 25 Years

Time: 15 Minutes

Material required:

- Soft ball
- Music (optional, for background atmosphere)
- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard
- Markers



Variations and Tips:

- Encourage participants to listen actively to each other's reflections and experiences.
- If time permits, after completing one round, you can repeat the activity with a different focus related to the theme or allow participants to share additional reflections.
- Use soft music in the background to create a reflective atmosphere during the activity.
- Emphasize the importance of respect and active listening throughout the game.



Journey of Faith - Name Toss



First Level: Gather participants in a circle, ensuring everyone can hear each other clearly. Explain the theme of the day: **"God walks with His people."** Emphasize that just as we are on a journey together, we will learn each other's names and acknowledge God's presence in our community.

Second Level: Start with one participant holding the ball. They say their name and briefly share how they have felt God's presence in their life or a moment where they felt part of a journey of faith (e.g., *"I'm Sarah, and I felt God's presence during a difficult time when my friends supported me"*).

After sharing, they gently toss the ball to another participant in the circle, saying "God walks with me" or similar phrases like *God saves me, God protects me, God consoles me, God gives me hope, God accepts me, God cares for me, etc.*

The person who catches the ball then says his/her own name and shares a similar experience or reflection on the theme before tossing the ball to someone else. Continue this process around the circle, ensuring each participant has a turn to share his/her name and a reflection on God's presence or their journey of faith.

Optionally, as participants share, note down key points or themes on the large sheet of paper or whiteboard to visually capture the reflections and connections made during the activity.

Conclusion:

Wrap up the activity by summarizing some of the shared reflections and thanking everyone for participating. Reinforce the theme of the day by noting how each person's story contributes to the collective journey of faith, where "God walks with His people."



This adapted Name Toss activity allows participants to both learn each other's names and engage in meaningful reflection on their faith journey, aligning with the theme of World Day of Migrants and Refugees centered around God's presence and guidance in our lives.



Activity 2: Journey with God's Footprints

Goal of the Activity 2: This activity not only engages youth in empathy and understanding of migrant experiences but also deepens their awareness of God's presence in challenging circumstances and their role in extending kindness and support to others.

Materials Needed:

- Large sheets of paper or cardboard for making footprints
- Marker pens
- Tape or adhesive to stick footprints
- Enthusiastic animators

Procedure of the Activity:

Prepare the Footprints: Create large footprint cut-outs on sheets of paper or cardboard. Write simple actions or feelings associated with a migrant's journey and God's presence on each footprint. Examples include: "Hunger," "Thirst," "Sick," "Shelter-less," "Hopelessness," "Fear," "Care," "Help," "Compassion," "Legal help," etc. Ensure there's a mix of challenges faced by migrants and positive actions reflecting God's presence.

Setting the Scene:

Place the footprints around the room or in a designated outdoor area, creating a trail that youth can follow. Arrange them to simulate a journey, with challenges and moments of assistance.

Way towards Activity (Instructions):

Divide the Youth into groups. Ask the groups to move around the trail. Each group will start at a different footprint and follow the trail. Once they have seen all the footprints, they can choose a particular concept most relating to each group and enact on the concept as a group. Example: "Hunger," The group members will enact on how hunger is experienced by the Migrants and Refugees. Every Group will enact on the different themes

- How migrants might feel in each situation depicted (like "Hunger," "Fear," "Hopelessness") and how God's presence could provide comfort or strength.
- How positive actions (like "Care," "Help," "Compassion") demonstrate God's love and support in challenging times.
- What it means to walk alongside migrants as fellow companions and advocates of justice and compassion.

Group Reflection:

Gather all the youth together after they've enacted the footprint trail. Facilitate a group discussion about their experiences:

- Ask each group to share one impactful moment or insight they gained from following the footprints.
- Discuss similarities and differences in their interpretations of God's presence in the journey of migrants.
- Brainstorm ways they can actively support migrants in their communities, reflecting God's love and justice.

Conclusion:

Conclude the activity by emphasizing that God walks with migrants and all people in their journeys, offering comfort, guidance, and hope. Encourage children to be aware of and responsive to the needs of migrants and others who face challenges.



Reflection:



Today, we embarked on a meaningful journey together, following the trail of footprints that represent the experiences of migrants. In walking this path, we encountered challenges that migrants often face—feelings of hunger, fear, sickness, and moments of despair. These footprints also showed us positive actions such as care, help, and compassion, which reflect God's presence and the kindness that we can extend to others.

There are numerous reasons why individuals seek to rebuild their lives in a different country. Some leave home to find employment or pursue education. Others are forced to flee persecution or human rights violations such as torture. Millions escape armed conflicts, crises, or violence. Many no longer feel safe and may have been targeted because of their ethnicity, religion, sexuality, or political beliefs.



Young people are inherently in a transitional phase, moving from the end of childhood towards entering the workforce. Migrating for better opportunities and also because of their sexual or gender orientation can often make them vulnerable to human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Others are detained by authorities upon arrival in a new country. Even after settling in and starting to build a new life, many face daily racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. Today, as we reflect on World Migration and Refugee Day, the theme "God walks with His people" resonates deeply with us. This theme reminds us that wherever we find ourselves, facing whatever challenges may come our way, God is always present with us. Just as the people of Israel were guided and protected by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night during their journey through the wilderness (Exodus 13:20-22), God watches over all of humanity. He guides us, provides for us, and gives us strength in times of uncertainty and difficulty. When the Holy family faced imminent danger,

an angel appeared to Joseph, instructing him to take his family to Egypt where they would be safe from King Herod's threat (Matthew 2:13-23). After Pentecost, the Apostles embarked on mission journeys that extended beyond familiar borders, accompanied by the Holy Spirit. Herod arrested Peter, intending to execute him publicly, but through fervent prayer, God sent an angel to miraculously free Peter from prison, demonstrating divine intervention and the power of faith amidst persecution (Acts 12:1-11).



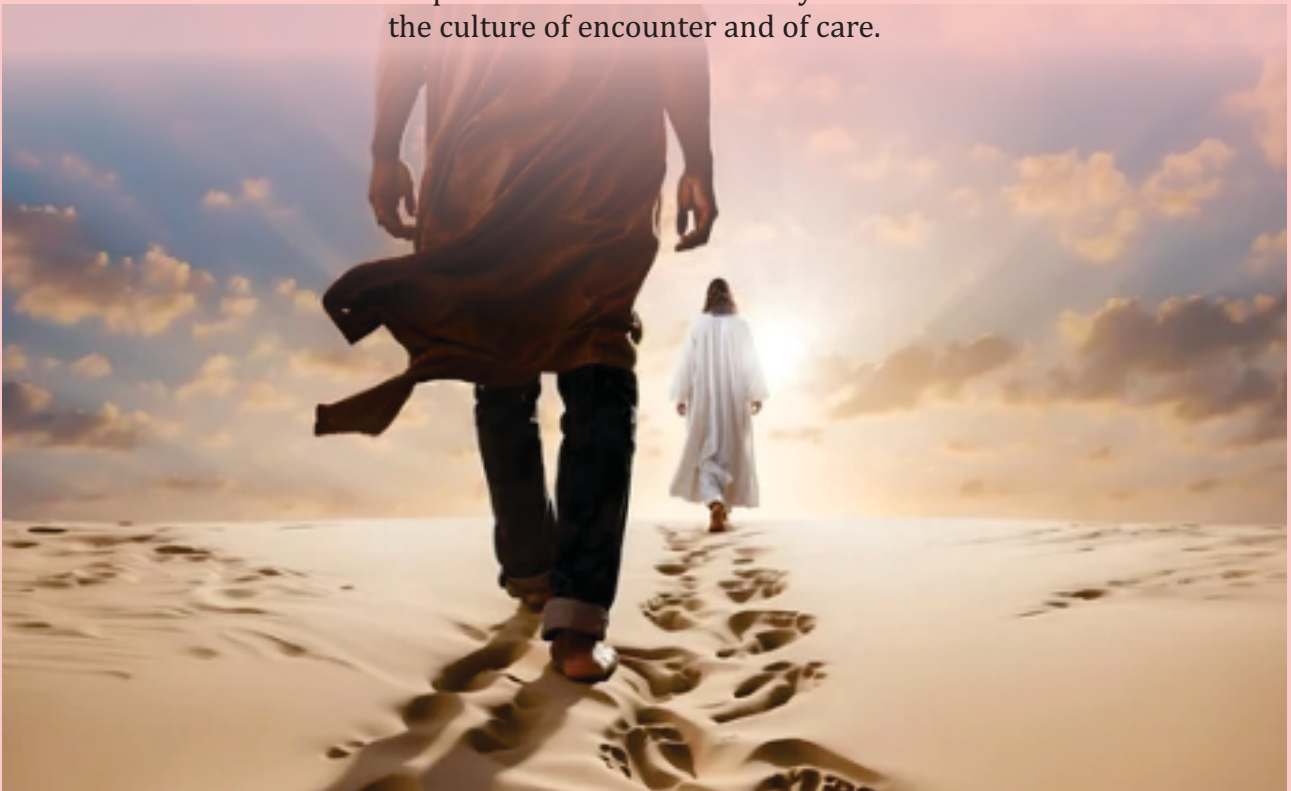
These powerful stories demonstrate God's profound care and protection for His people, especially during moments of fear and adversity.

Let us reflect on how we can embody God's love and justice in our interactions with migrants and refugees. Whether through advocacy, support initiatives, or simply extending a welcoming hand, each of us can make a meaningful difference in the lives of the refugees and migrants.



PRAYER

God, Father Almighty,
grant us the grace to work tirelessly
for justice, solidarity and peace,
so that all your children may enjoy
the freedom to choose whether to migrate or to stay.
Grant us the courage to denounce
all the horrors of our world,
and to combat every injustice
that mars the beauty of your children
and the harmony of our common home.
Sustain us by the power of your Spirit,
so that we can reflect your tender love
to every migrant whom you place in our path,
and to spread in hearts and in every situation
the culture of encounter and of care.



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Action Songs for the Youth

<https://youtu.be/oQUNBTTdSd4>

<https://youtu.be/XUqZb0jSaR4>

Materials for the Activities



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