



Small group discussion questions March 2017

Chapter & verse – Catherine Lewis-Smith (page 18)

Read Mark 13:14-23, followed by Catherine Lewis-Smith's article.

1. What experience, if any, have you had with people seeking asylum? Or, what might you say to someone who had to flee their country?
2. Catherine's second paragraph mentions the terror of separation experienced by Mary and Joseph. Can you think of other biblical examples of painful separation?
3. The third paragraph details the harsh winter experienced by asylum seekers in refugee camps. In Catherine's words, what could you/your church do 'ahead of next winter, to find places of safety and places of healing for those caught up in awful horror?'
4. In this Bible passage, 'Jesus is speaking into our current crises,' says Catherine in paragraph four. Do you agree? Why?
5. The Bible passage warns of 'false prophets'. Is there a relationship between the biblical warning and the exploitation by 'deceivers' Catherine describes in the penultimate paragraph. In what other ways are refugees treated unfairly?
6. What does hospitality mean to you? And how do you demonstrate this?
7. Catherine ends by reminding us that 'asylum seekers hear what we say and watch what we do.' Thinking of today's society, are you proud of what asylum seekers hear and see?
8. How does God call us to respond to the refugee crisis?

For further reflection: 'Strong peoples will glorify you ... for you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress' Isaiah 25:3-4



Prayer: Loving God, give fearful hearts reason to be glad, weary souls cause to rejoice and exhausted bodies a place to rest secure. Lead us together on the path to life, so all may know the fullness of joy. Amen.

(This prayer is excerpted from Christian Aid resources accessible via bit.ly/carefugee)