



WWYD: Immigrant | September 19, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes?” Does our faith require us to actually do that?

Key Verses

Proverbs 4:7-9 (NIV)

“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious

crown.”

Discussion

There’s no doubt that immigration has been a huge part of our political and cultural landscape over the last few years. And the truth is, these public conversations and political decisions made around immigration affect a huge amount of people living in the United States of America – people we all know, live by, and interact with on a day-to-day basis. For those a little more personally removed from the experience of an immigrant, having a conversation with someone directly affected could feel very daunting. What do you say? How do you start?

1. Have you ever had a conversation with someone directly affected by the issue of immigration? If not, have you ever had a conversation with someone who has a different opinion than you? Explain.
2. Why might it be difficult to engage in conversations or relationships where we feel like we don’t have the personal experience to warrant an opinion?

Many of us are often so quick to want to be understood, that we forget to seek understanding first. That happens especially in conversations that are emotionally and politically charged with strong opinion. There’s an old saying, “Walk a mile in someone else’s shoes.” Although it may seem cliché, we are challenged to do exactly that when we live out our faith. We are asked as Christians to get to know people who have different opinions and experiences than we do. In fact, we are asked to do not only that, but to befriend them as well.

3. Why do you think it’s so often our first impulse to speak and share our opinion?
4. If you’re honest with yourself, do you see this played out in your walk of faith? If so, explain. If not, why might this be?

In Proverbs 4:7-9, we read about the importance of seeking wisdom and understanding. The verse goes so far as to say we should value it above all our possessions. It’s that important. When we think about the ramifications for this verse as Christians, we need to start to view our conversations and relationships through it. When it comes to immigration, before we speak, we must seek to understand where all sides are coming from. This starts when we simply put in the effort to befriend those who may be directly affected.

5. Why do you think wisdom and understanding are so important? Do you think culture places the same importance on them? Why or why not?
6. What is one small way you could start to live this out in your faith, either for the first time or in a deeper way?

What’s Next?

Setting your politics and theology aside, take a moment to ask yourself the questions, “What would I do if I was born in a country where it was unsafe to raise my family? To what lengths would I go to keep them safe? Would I be willing to risk my own life or break the law in order to protect them?” You may be surprised at your answer.

This week, as you live out your faith, engage your faith a little bit differently. Look for stories, ask questions, and sit next to people who don’t look like you. Don’t try to figure it out all on your own or make sure people understand your opinion. Instead, seek first understanding. Make it your goal to learn as much as you can by listening to other people.