

Engaging Refugees (Asylum Seekers)



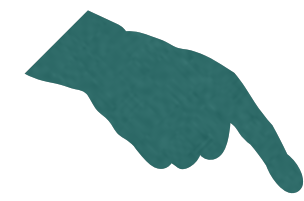
4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and
Guarding the Global Bride of Christ

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Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it may be printed) or large group presentation but rather an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate discussions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both formal and informal discussion groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content (except modifying the King's Witness symbols) to meet your needs.

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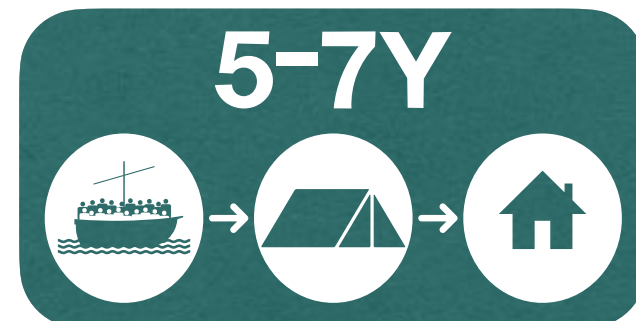


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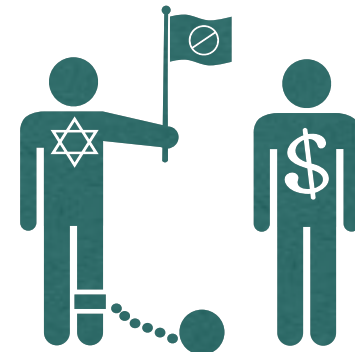
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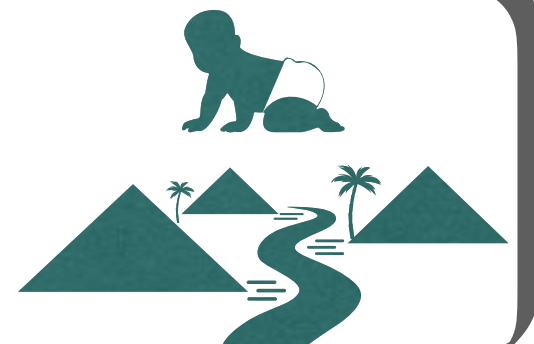
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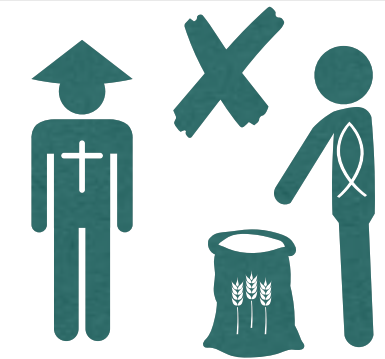
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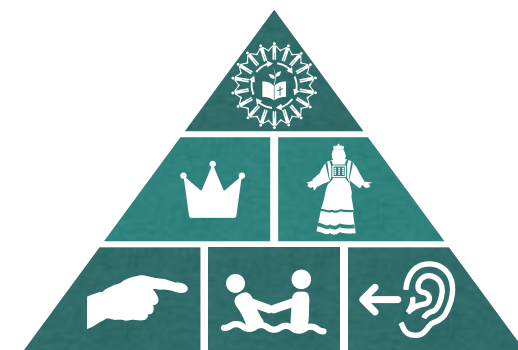
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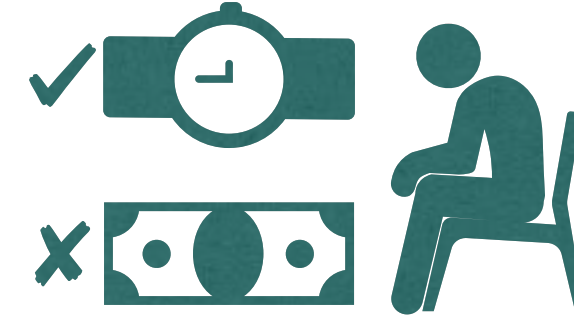
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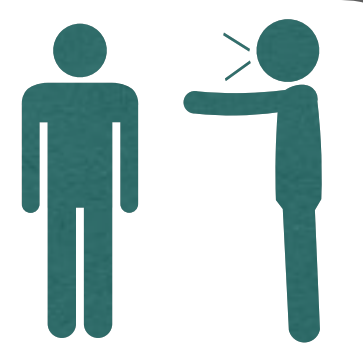
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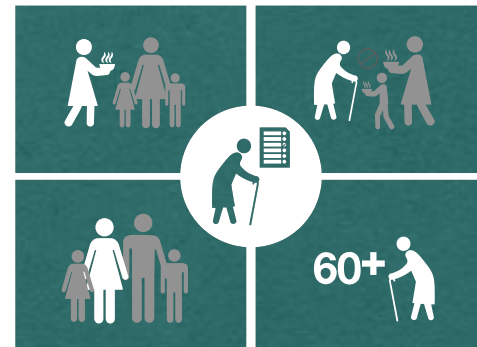
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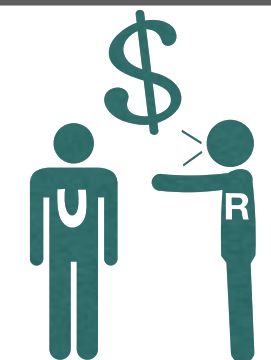
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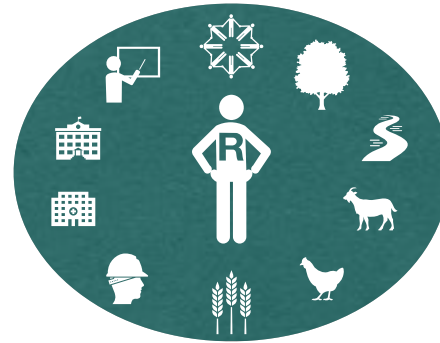
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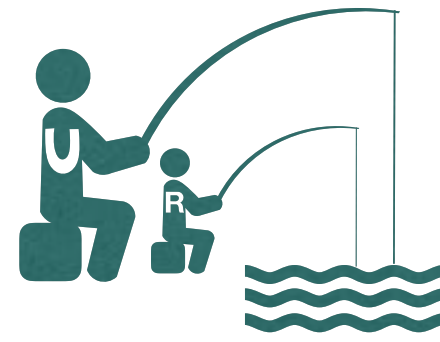
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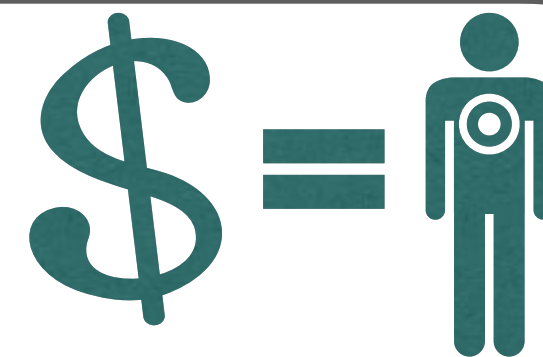
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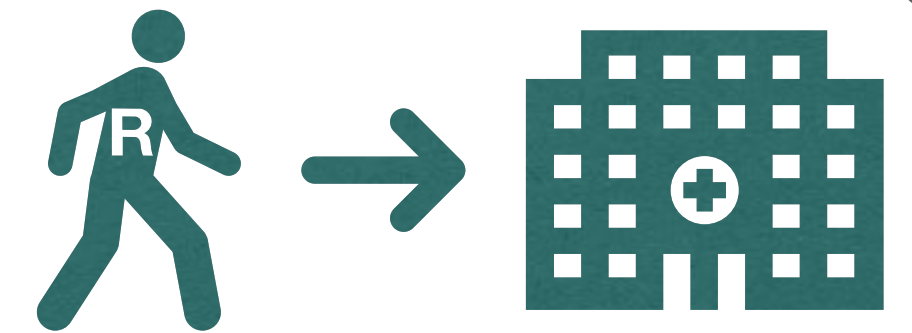
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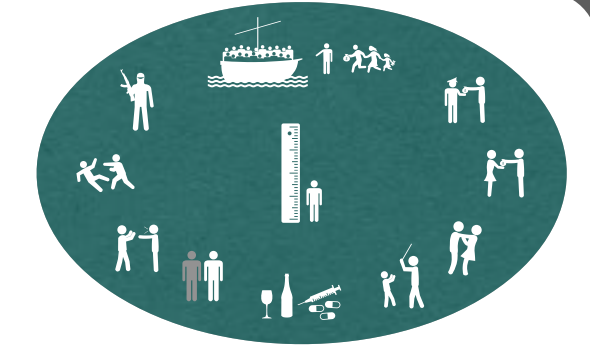
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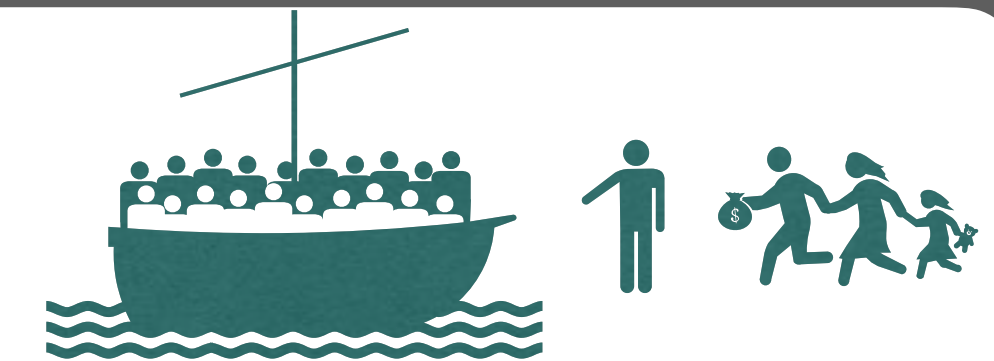
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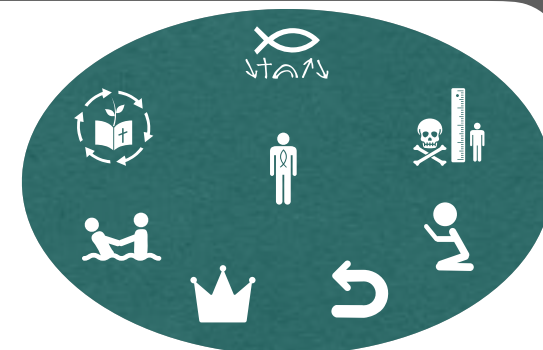
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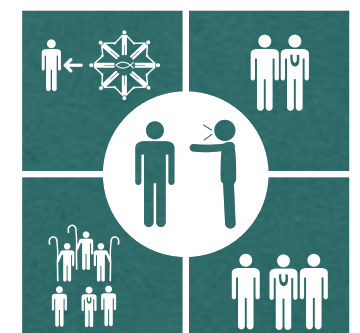
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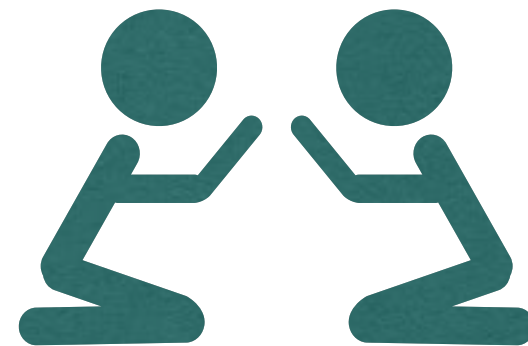
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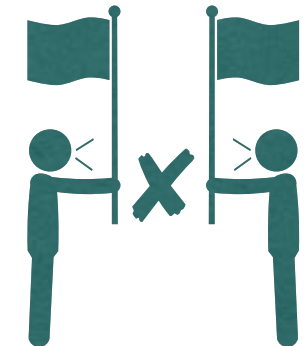
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Introduction

Asylum Seeker (Refugee) Process

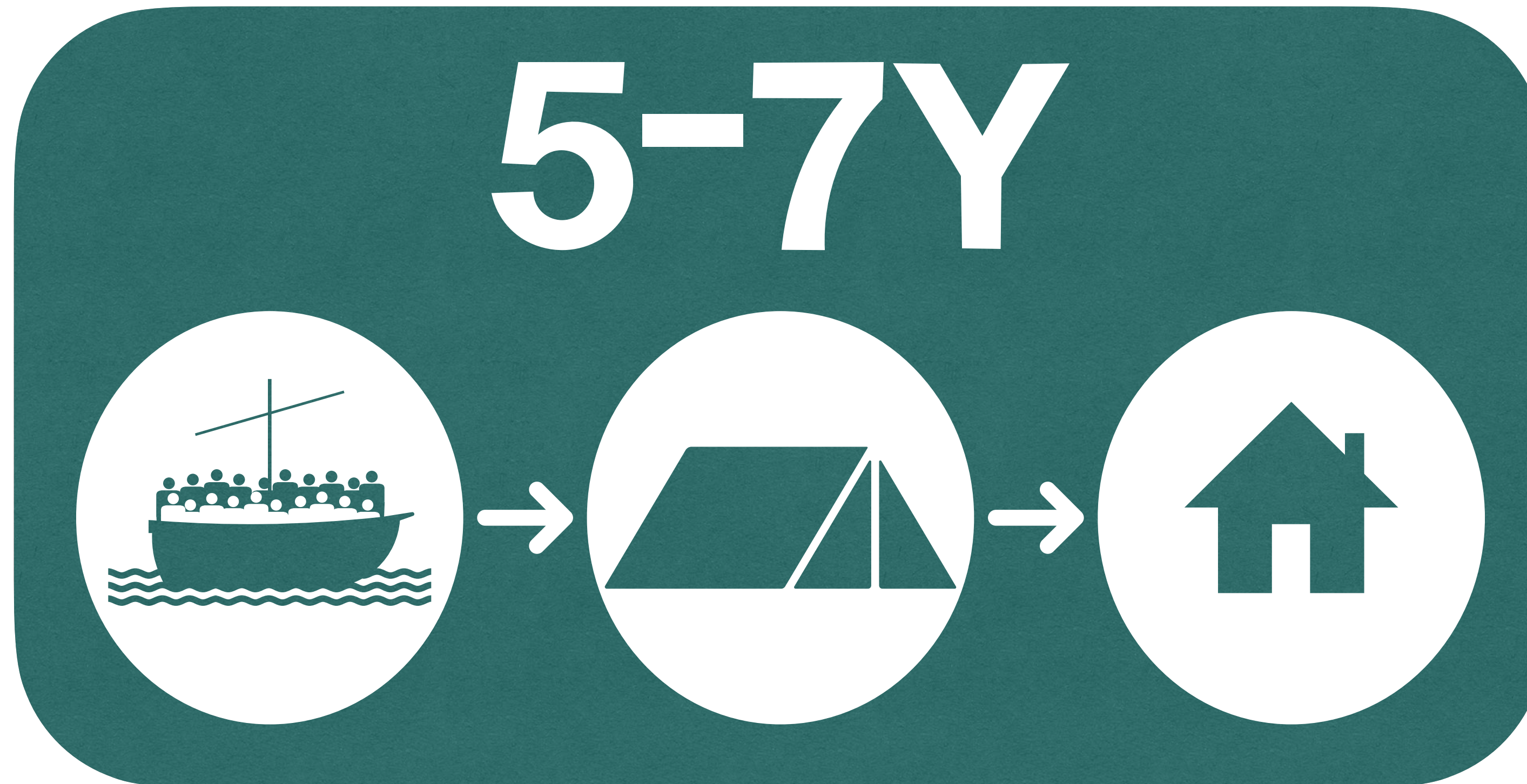
- Experience religious or political persecution
- Flee their country
- Find a country of temporary asylum and register with UNHCR as an Asylum Seeker
- Present Evidence for review
- Obtain Acceptance as a Refugee by UNHCR
- Be referred to an embassy for permanent resettlement
- Transport to new country for permanent resettlement
- Adapting to a new homeland



*Most asylum seekers hope to be permanently resettled in America, Canada, Europe, Australia, or New Zealand.

Key Idea: The refugee process is long and arduous for asylum seekers.

5-7 Year Process



Key Idea: The asylum seeker process typically takes 5-7 years from the time a person flees their country until permanent resettlement in a new country.

Not Allowed To Work (In Most Countries of Asylum)



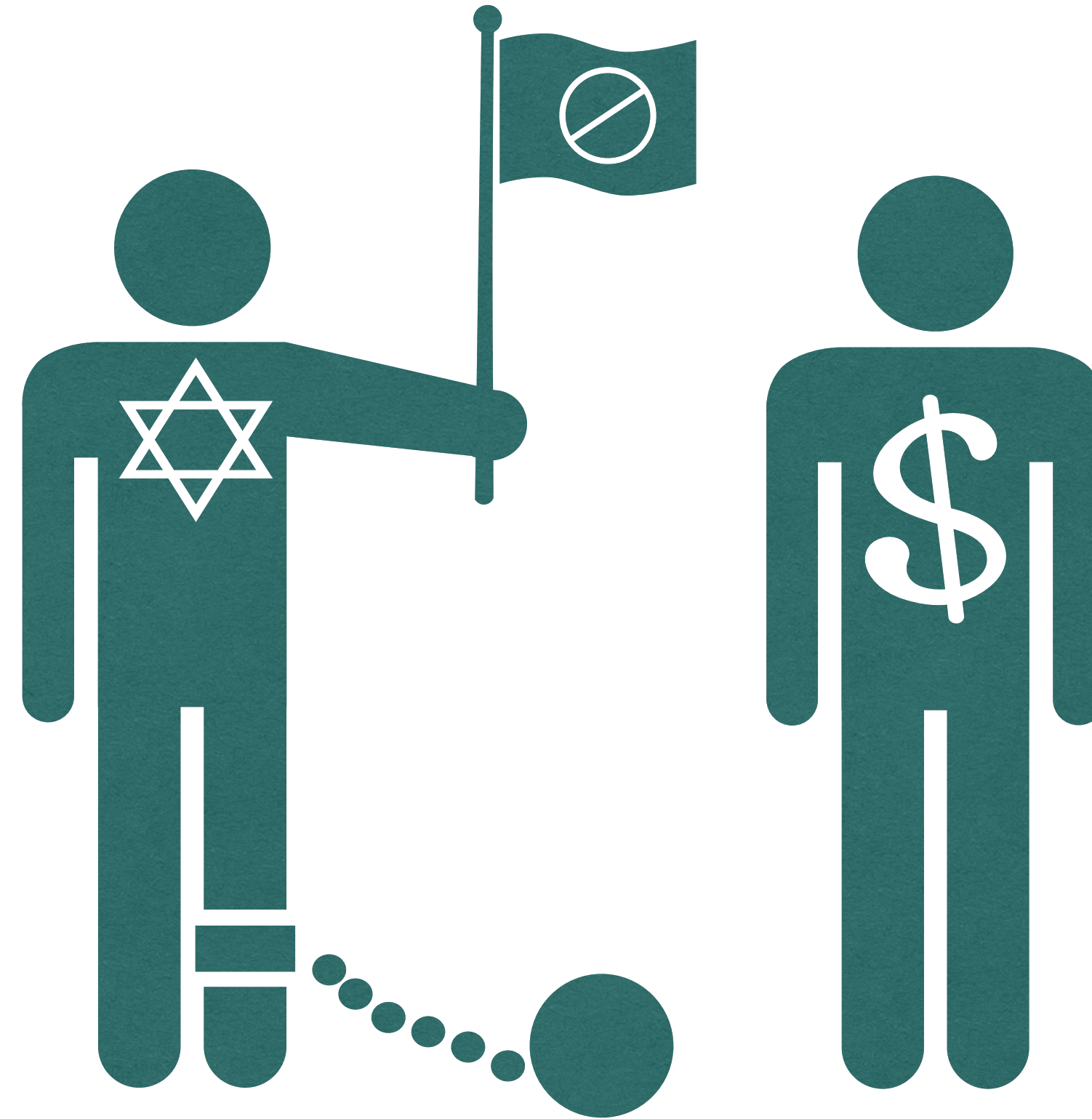
*Refugees often bring enough money for 1-2 years of expenses but run out of resources if the asylum process lasts longer than that.

Key Idea: Refugees are not allowed to work in most countries of asylum because governments fear asylum seekers will compete with the poor among their own population and cause political instability..

Refugee or Economic Migrant?

(Why Does It Matter?)

*As the Church, we should reach out in compassion to everyone regardless of status.



But we must be careful not to encourage economic migrants to pose as refugees and utilize resources meant to help those in life-threatening situations. This is a complex issue that needs to be handled with care.

Key Idea: Refugee status is only granted to those who can establish a case based on religious or political persecution. UNHCR will not approve economic migrants as refugees.

Some Refugees Misrepresent Their Case (Making the Process Longer and More Complicated)



Key Idea: Many legitimate refugees misrepresent the facts of their case for a variety of reasons and this makes the refugee process long and complicated.

Don't Idolize Refugees (Or Those Who Help Refugees)

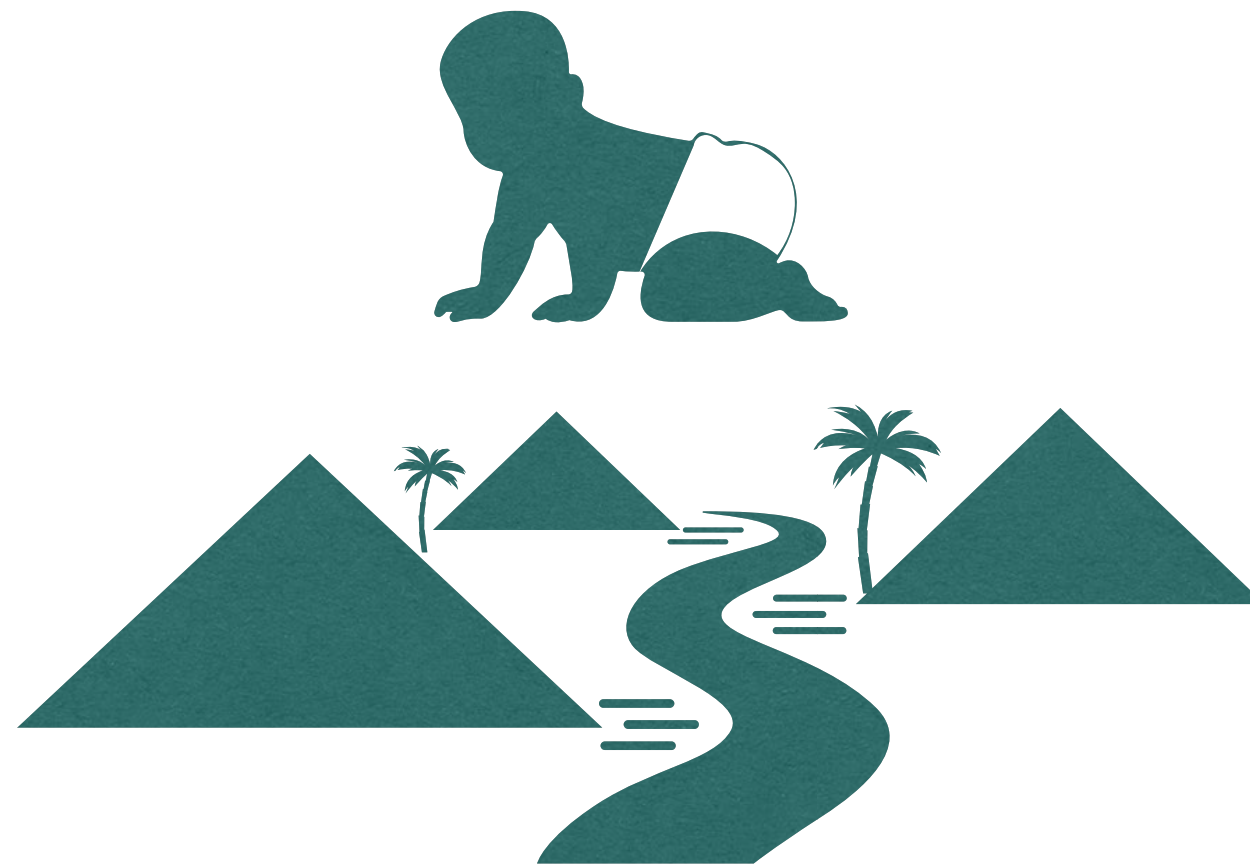
*We help people
because Jesus is
worthy of our efforts,
not because people
are worthy or grateful
for our efforts!



Key Idea: Do not idolize or romanticize refugees or those who help refugees as they are flawed people and will disappoint you. Disappointment leads to discouragement and apathy and results in a lack of stable, long-term help for those refugees who are truly in need.

Jesus Was a Refugee

(As Were Many Others in the Bible)



*“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘**Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to **destroy him.**’ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’” (Matthew 2:13-15)***

*“He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, **and loves the sojourner**, giving him food and clothing. **Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.**” (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)*

*“When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, **but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.** And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. **But they were seeking to kill him. And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.**” (Acts 9:23-30)*

Key Idea: Jesus was once a refugee as were many other people in the Bible.

We Should Help People in Need



*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.**” (Matthew 25:31-33)*

*“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.**’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, **‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”** (Matthew 25:34-40)*

*“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ **Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**” (Matthew 25:41-46)*

*The context of Matthew 25:31-46 specifically addresses Jesus’ expectation that true believers will physically help Christians facing religious persecution (“the least of these my brothers”). But there are many other verses that command us to help the poor in general - including non-Christians.

Key Idea: God expects true followers of Christ to help those who are in need.

Be an Example of Generosity to Refugees

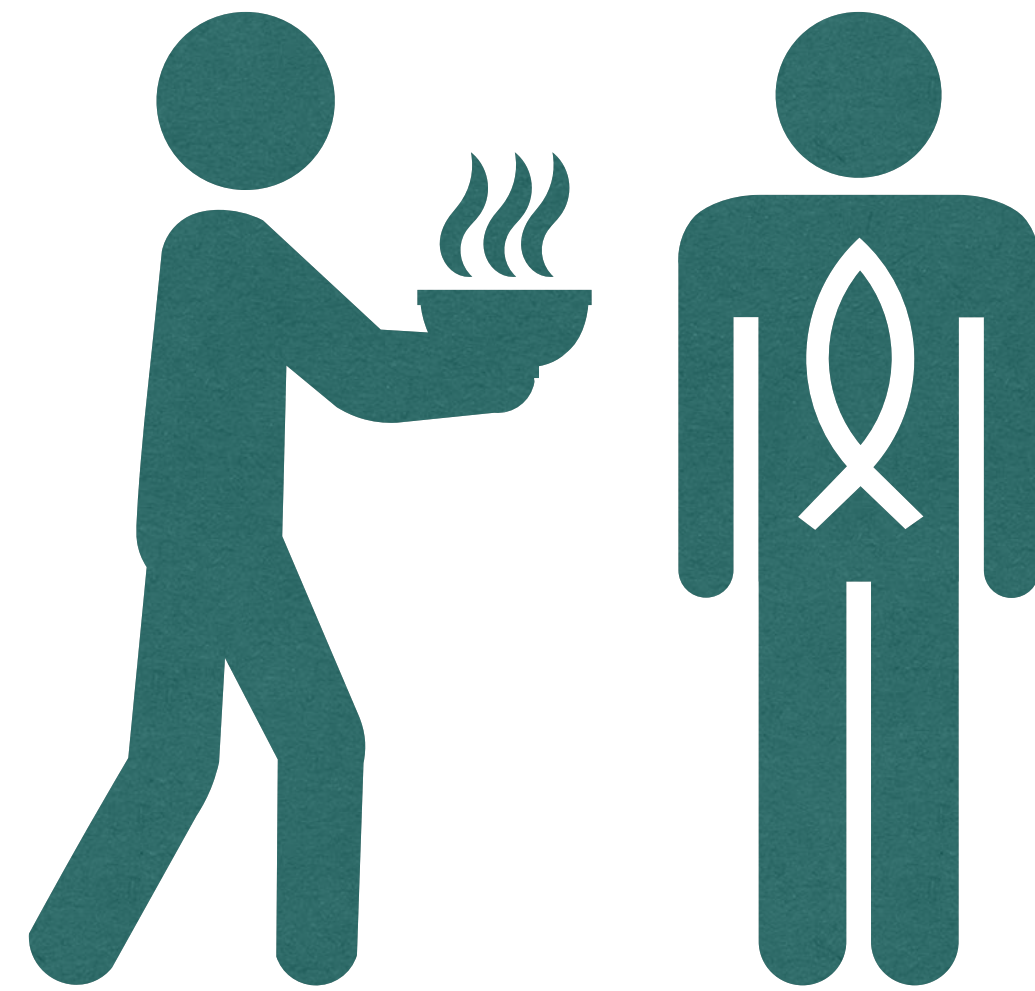


“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:16)

“Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, ‘Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.’” (Luke 21:1-4)

Key Idea: Be a humble example of generosity to asylum seekers and refugees without expecting personal or public praise.

Christian Refugees Should Be a Priority (But We Should Help Non-Christians Refugees Too)



*“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**” (Galatians 6:9-10)*

Key Idea: The needy among the asylum seeker and refugee Christian community are the major priority but we should also generously help others.

Practice Holistic Ministry



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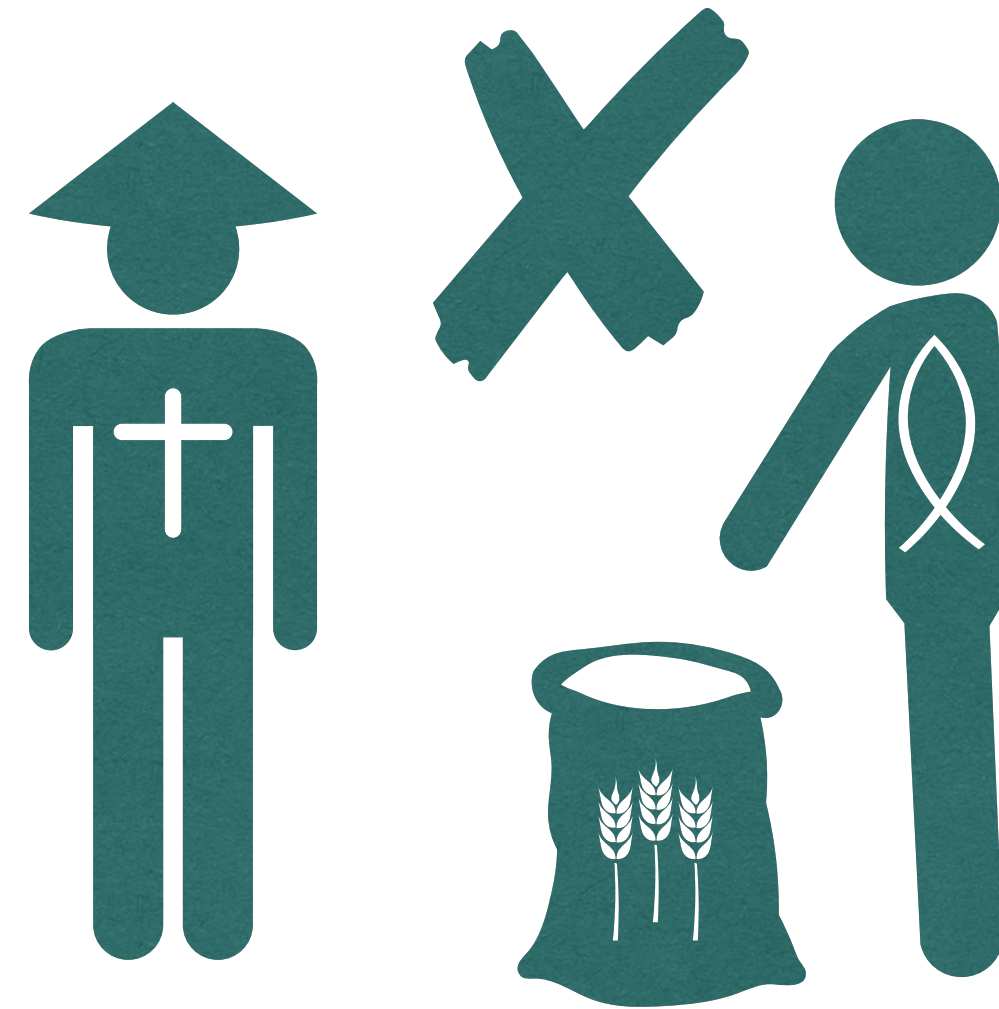


*“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? **If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**” (James 2:14-17)*

*“For ‘**everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And **how are they to hear without someone preaching?** And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!**’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?’ So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**” (Romans 10:13-17)*

Key Idea: Practice holistic ministry by providing for pressing physical needs while also addressing eternal spiritual needs by sharing the Gospel.

Avoid Making Rice Christians



*In the past some well-intentioned missionaries convinced people to convert to Christianity by promising them rice or other aid. When the rice ran out, the new converts returned to their old religion. You should never offer or promise money or aid in return for attendance to a religious group meeting or conversion to the Christian faith. This is not true salvation, does not help your group grow, and creates many problems for other Christians in the community.

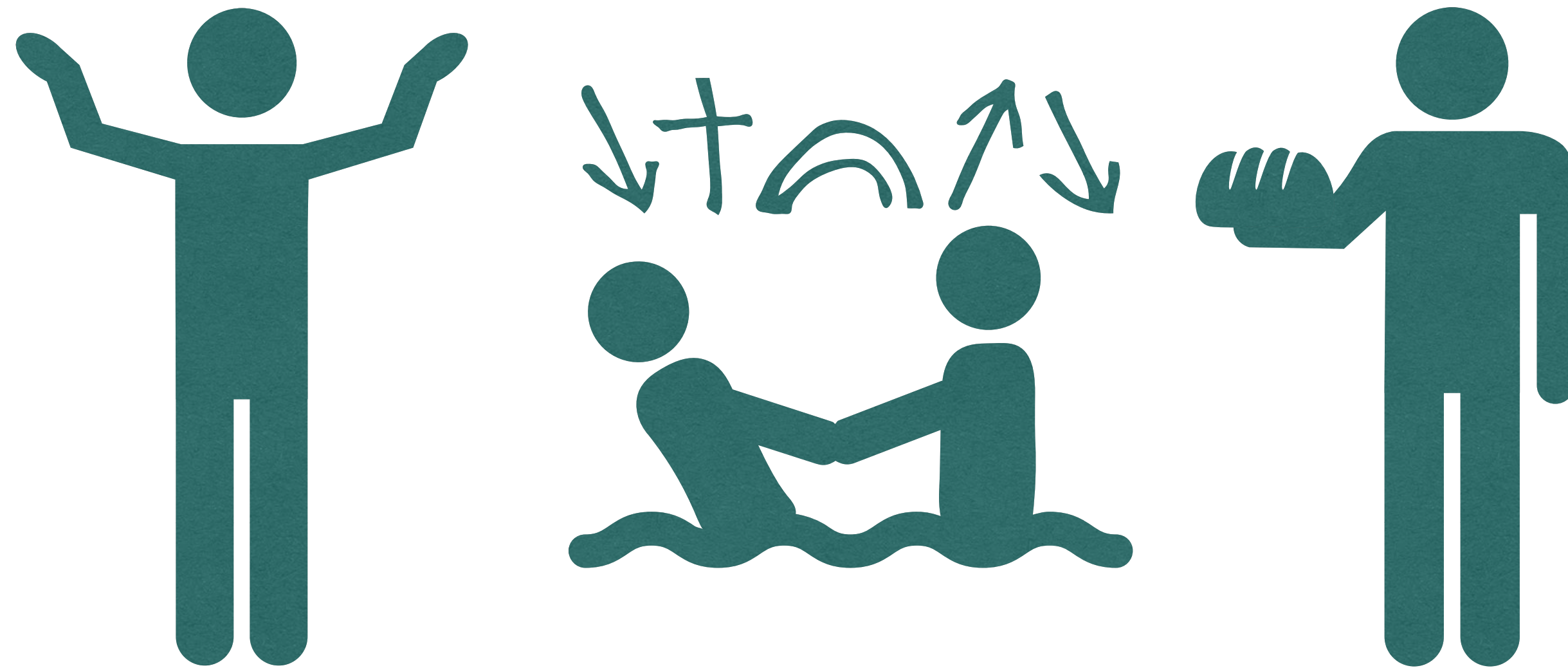
Key Idea: Avoid making rice Christians who come to your group only to receive some promise of financial aid.

Expect Mixed Motives



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“Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, **whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.**” (Philippians 1:15-18)

“Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.” (Acts 8:13)

“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’ But Peter said to him, ‘May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.’” (Acts 8:18-23)

*“He put another parable before them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but **while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?” He said to them, “An enemy has done this.” So the servants said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he said, “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. **Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, ‘Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”**”” (Matthew 13:24-30)*

Key Idea: Minister to everyone but realize that no matter how you structure your ministry, some people will come to Christianity with mixed motives or outright bad motives. But others will come for the right reasons.

The Great Commission (On our Doorstep)



*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you**. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Key Idea: Refugees typically come from hard-to-access countries and so engaging with refugees helps us to fulfill the Great Commission in an easier environment.

Addressing Physical Needs

The Basic Physical Needs



Key Idea: The five basic physical needs of refugees are: security, housing, food, medical, and education.

The Major Emotional Needs



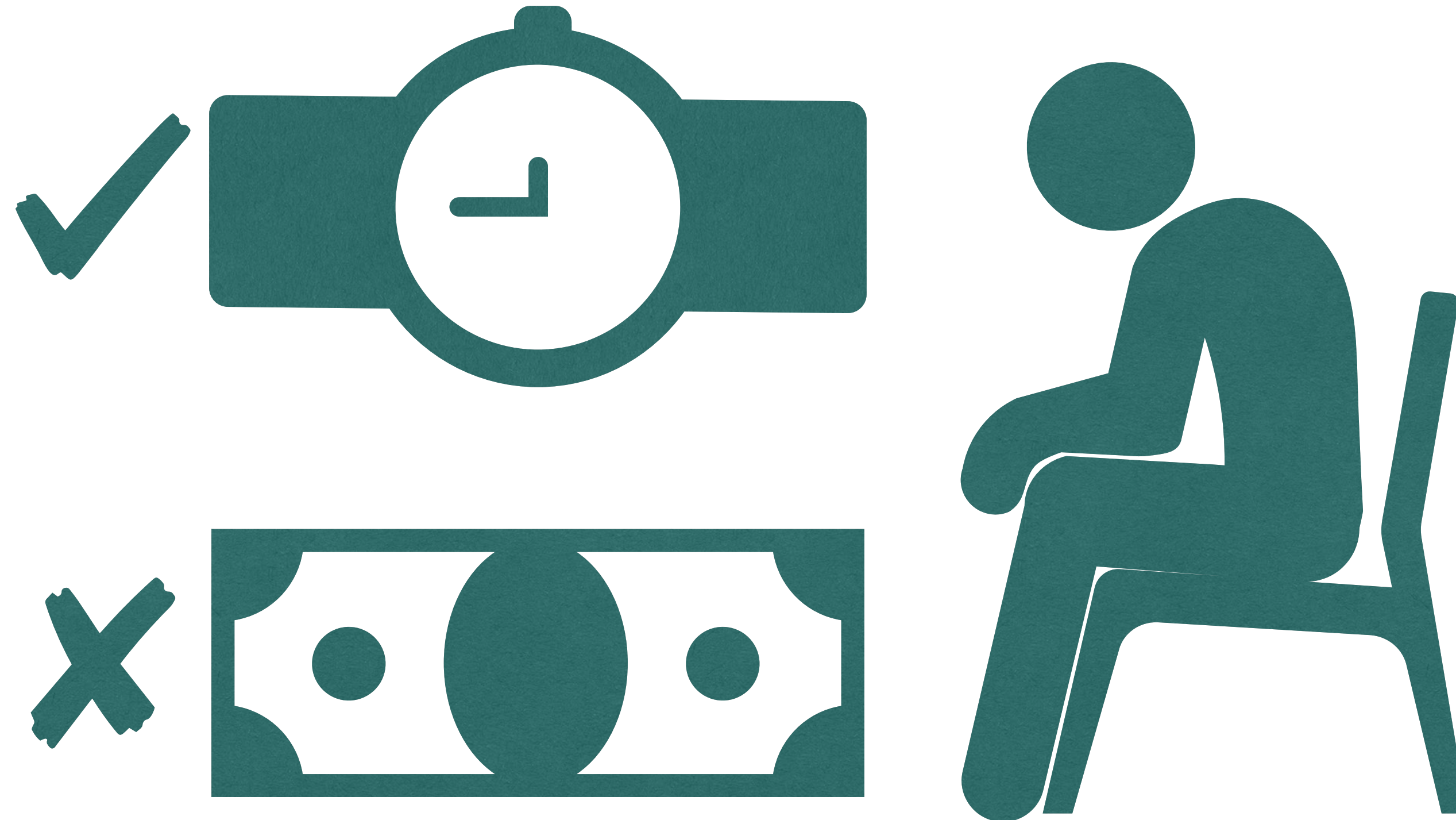
- Family
- Community
- Purposeful activity
- Counseling

Key Idea: The major emotional needs of refugees are the need for family, community, purposeful activity, and counseling.

Boredom Is a Major Problem (Too Much Time, Too Little Money)

Short-Term Issues:

- Loss of dignity
- Loss of ownership and control
- Emotional instability
- Unproductive lifestyle
- Conflict
- Unhealthy competition for resources
- Engaging in illegal or immoral activities
- Hopelessness

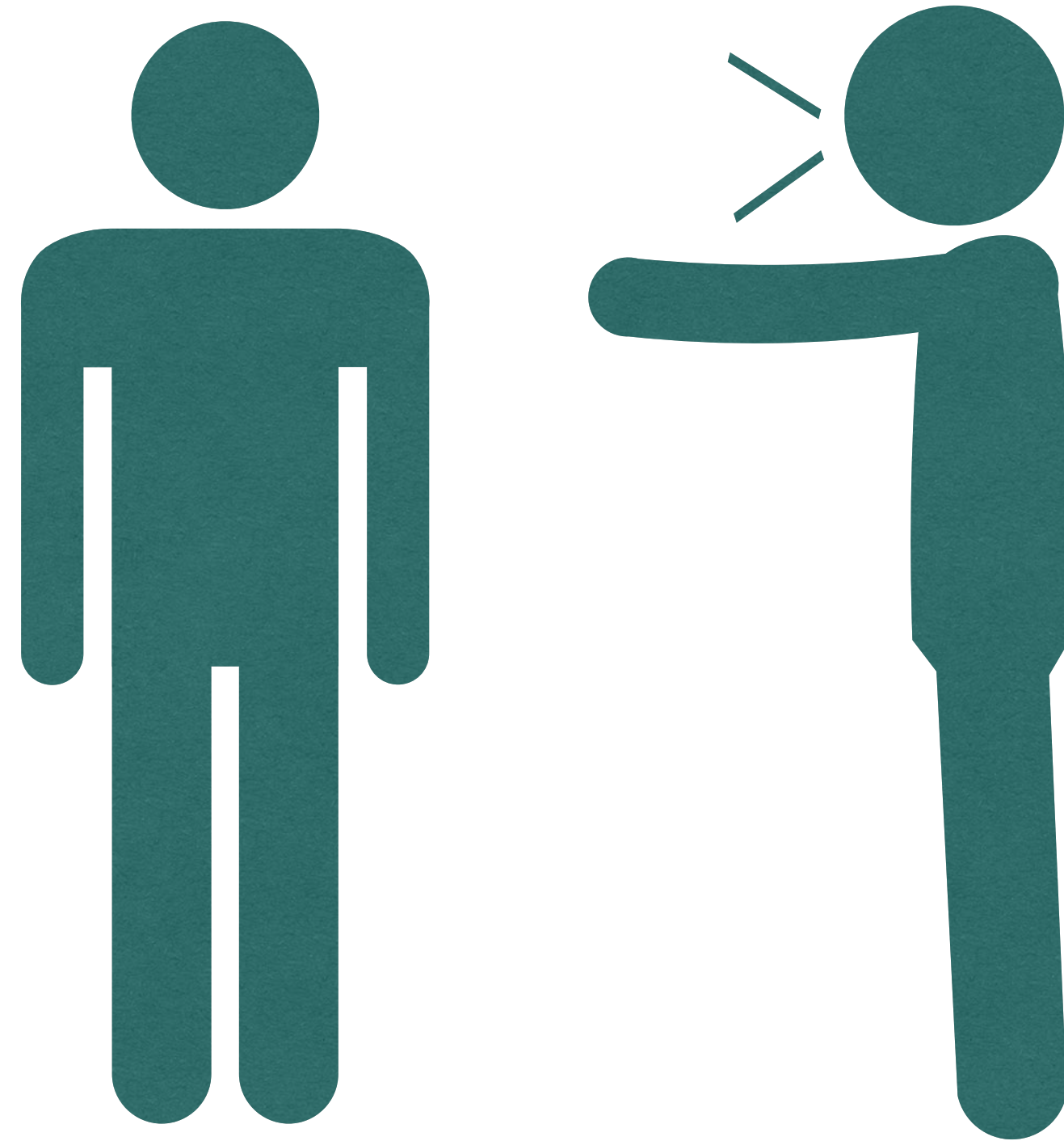


Long-Term Problems

- Inability to adjust to the demands of a normal life
- Feelings of entitlement
- Major emotional instability
- Disillusionment with society

Key Idea: Boredom is a major problem because asylum seekers have too much time and no money. Boredom has both short-term and long-term consequences for refugees and the community.

Distrust and Interpersonal Conflict (Are a Major Problem)



Key Idea: Distrust and interpersonal conflict are a major problem as refugees come from areas of conflict and are constantly competing for resources. Developing character, trust, and healthy conflict management skills should be a priority.

Choose Wise Boundaries (Widow's List)



- No family to help her
- 60+ years old
- Faithful wife and mother
- Known for good works

*“Honor widows who are truly widows. **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household** and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:3-8)*

*“Let a widow be enrolled if she is **not less than sixty years of age**, having been **the wife of one husband**, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work. But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. For some have already strayed after Satan. **If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.**” (1 Timothy 5:9-16)*

Key Idea: The “widows list” is a biblical example of wise boundaries that keep Christian charity from enabling bad behavior.

Prioritize the Most Vulnerable

- Women and children
- Widows
- Orphans
- The sick
- Those in prison
- Aliens (refugees)
- The elderly (without family)



“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows** in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” (James 1:27)

*“For I was **hungry** and you gave me food, I was **thirsty** and you gave me drink, I was **a stranger** and you welcomed me, I was **naked** and you clothed me, I was **sick** and you visited me, I was **in prison** and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:35-40)*

*“**You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself**, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.” (James 1:27)*

Key Idea: Prioritize help for those who are most vulnerable in order to maximize limited resources.

Families Should Help Family (Rather Than Burden the Church)



“But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Timothy 5:8)

*“If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.”
(1 Timothy 5:16)*

Key Idea: Christian families should take care of needy members of their own family (if possible) rather than burden the Church.

Require Refugees To Give Back (Not To Just Take)



Key Idea: Require refugees who get aid to give back to the community in order to build dignity, promote healthy community, and discourage unhealthy dependency issues.

Do Not Provide for Those Unwilling To Give Back (to the Community)



*“Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness** and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.** For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.” (1 Timothy 5:16)*

Key Idea: Do not provide for those who refuse to give back to the community as this is usually a sign that they are not really in need of help. Those in true need are all typically eager to help others.

Watch Out for Double-Dipping



*Share information wisely with other organizations to discourage double-dipping.

Key Idea: Watch out for those who secretly take support from multiple sources as this encourages bad behavior, robs other needy people of help, creates conflict and distrust within the refugee and aid community, and discourages donors from giving.

Treat Everyone Fairly (Don't Choose Sides or Favorites)



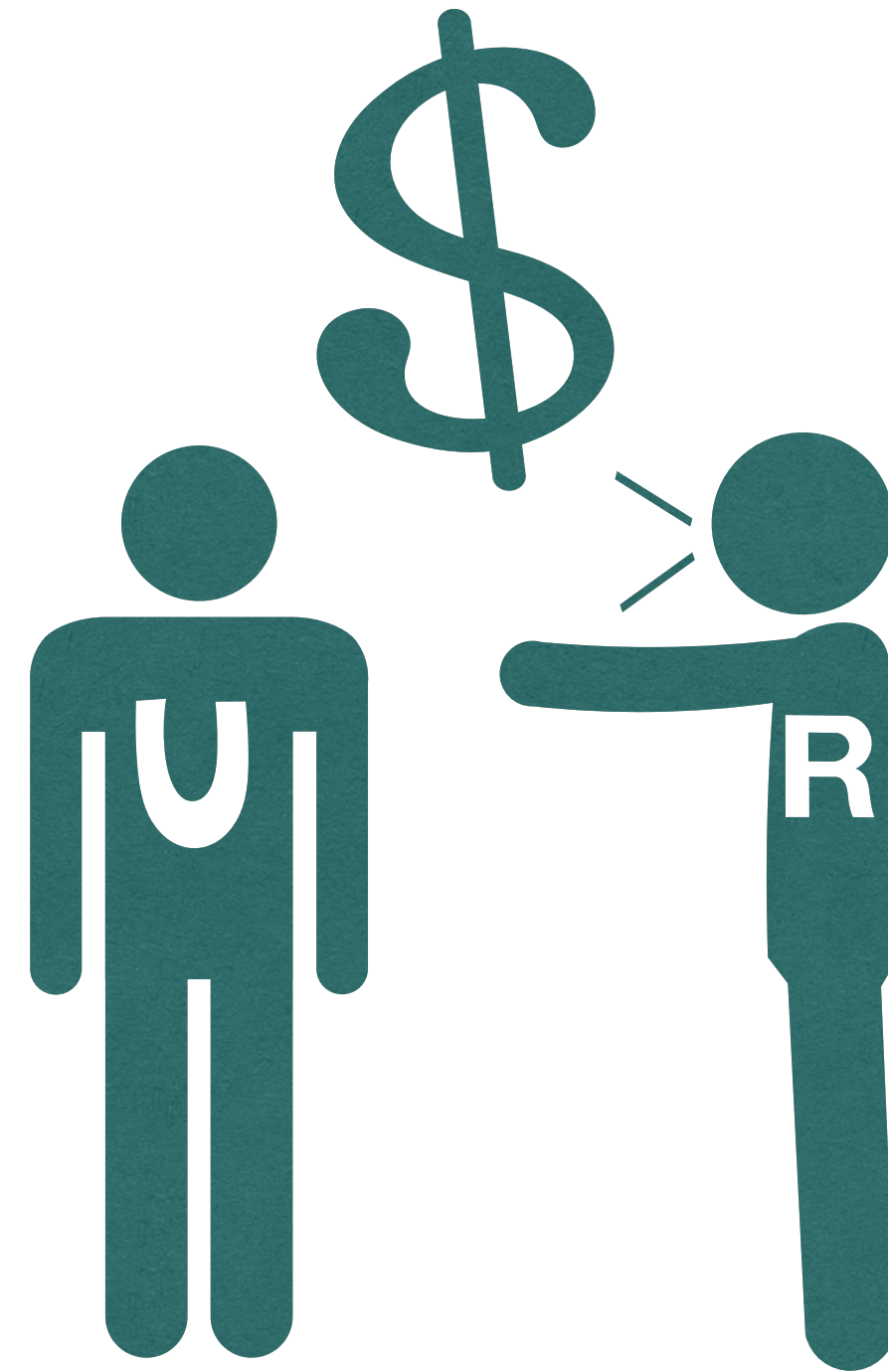
Key Idea: Treat everyone equally, don't take sides, don't listen to gossip, and avoid giving people preferential treatment as refugees are extremely sensitive to issues of inequality.

Be Wise About Giving Things Away



Key Idea: Be wise about giving things away as this creates jealousy and conflict within a group. Use a lottery system to randomly choose who gets giveaway items and handle the giveaway quietly to guard the dignity of group members.

Be Wise About Loaning Money (It Can Destroy Relationships)



Key Idea: Be wise about loaning money as money can destroy relationships. It is generally better to give what you can afford as a gift rather than expect the payback of a loan from people in need.

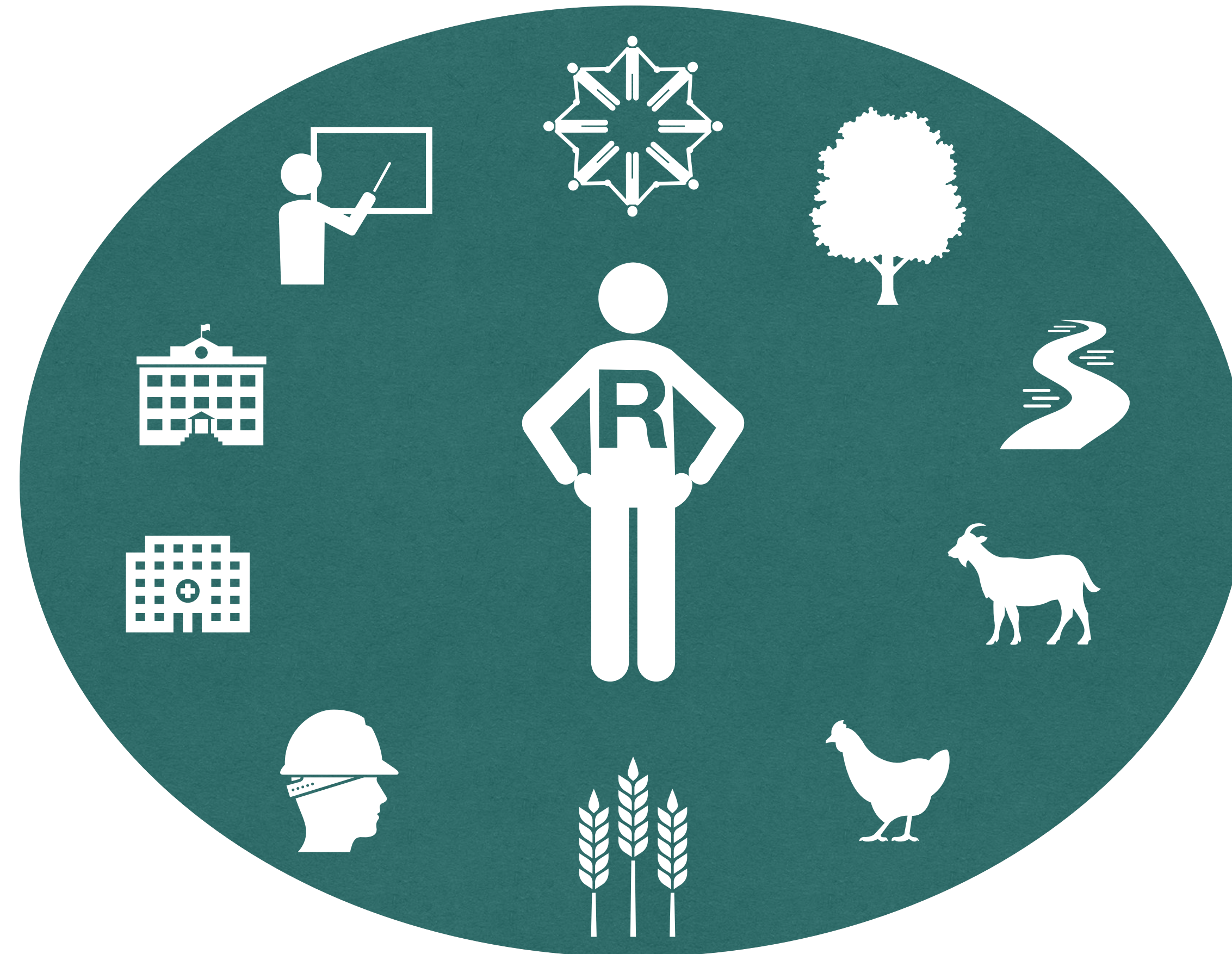
Don't Promise Open Ended Support



*Remind refugees that you are helping them with very specific needs and not taking on responsibility for every need in their life.

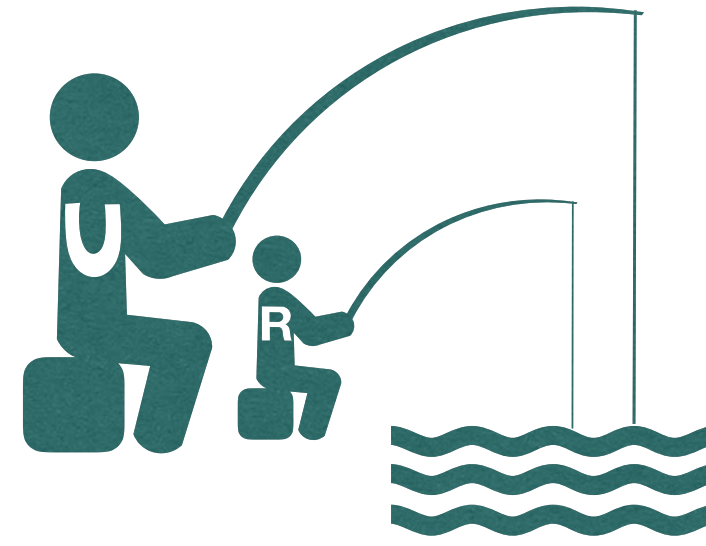
Key Idea: Avoid making open-ended promises in order to avoid unhealthy dependency issues. Specify the type of aid you are giving and how long you are promising support. You can always renew the agreement later.

Help Refugees To Utilize Available Resources



Key Idea: Help refugees identify and utilize available resources rather than recreating support systems that are already available in the community.

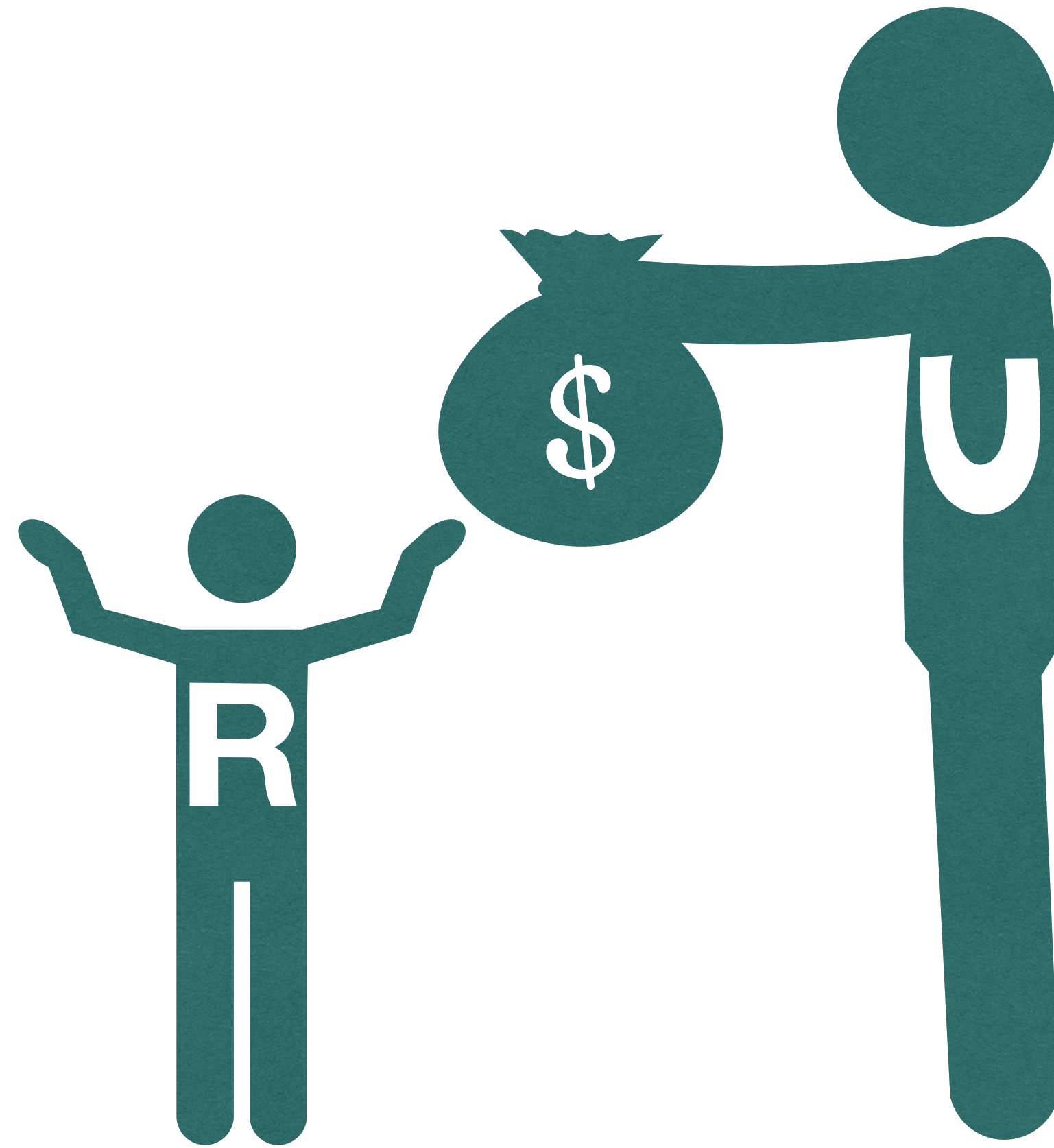
Teach Refugees How To Fish (Rather Than Giving Them Fish, When Possible)



**An old proverb says, “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”* Giving things may make us feel good but does not necessarily meet the real need in another person’s life. We want to help asylum seekers provide for as many of their own needs as possible during their time in the asylum and refugee process. Otherwise they lose the ability to think and act independently and struggle to adjust to a normal life when they are permanently resettled in another country. Helping them to stay busy also keeps them from misusing their time in a way that is harmful to their host society. Consider providing skills training that may help them better provide for themselves once they are permanently resettled.

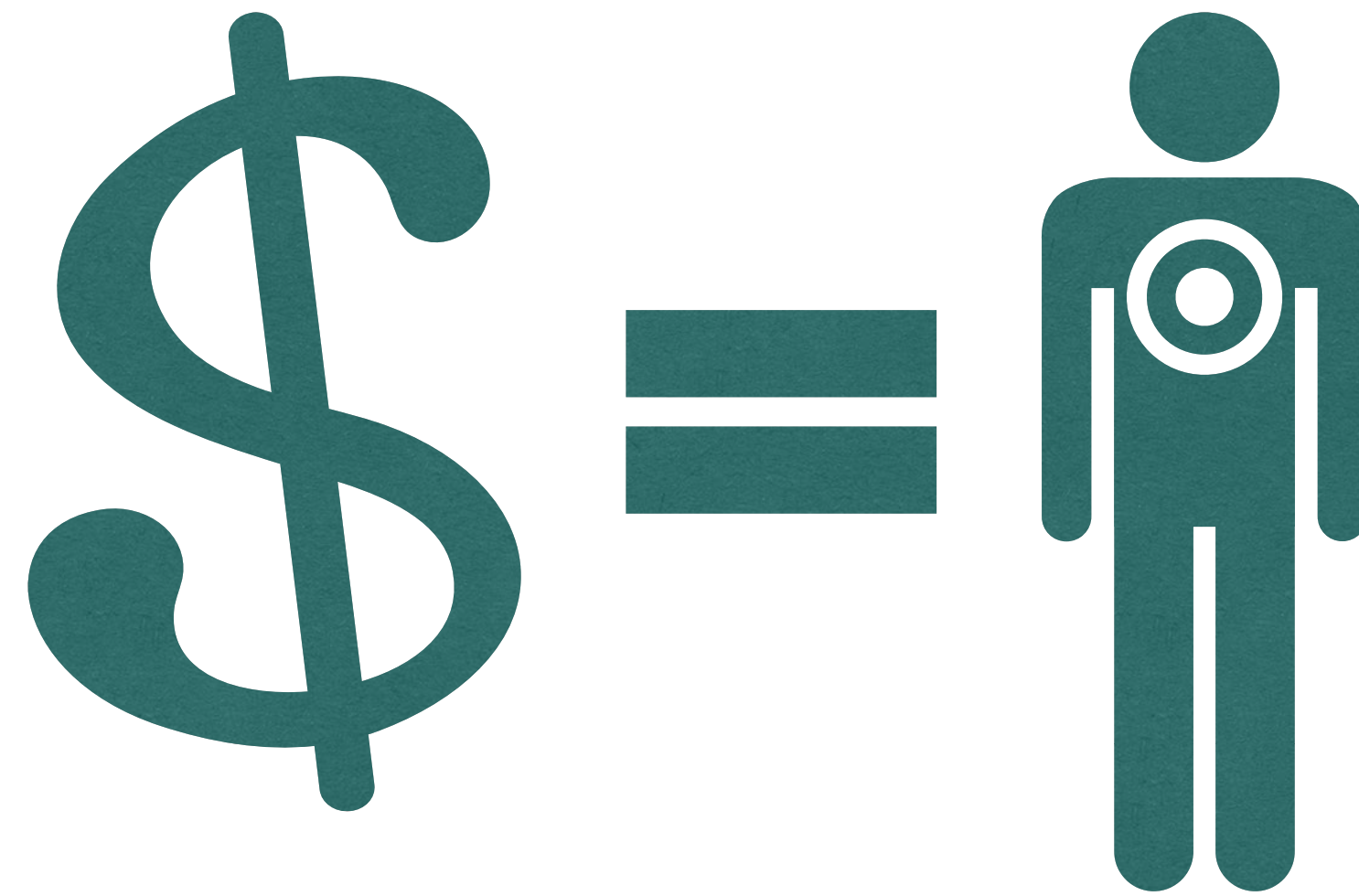
Key Idea: Teach people how to responsibly provide for themselves rather than building unhealthy dependence on others through charity.

Don't Become God to Refugees



Key Idea: Do not seek the praise of the needy nor undermine godly discipline by continually enabling bad behavior and unhealthy dependancies.

Avoid Being the Most Generous Donor in Town



*Becoming identified as the most generous donor in town will draw the attention of unscrupulous people and make you a target. This also undermines the efforts of others as people who are getting aid somewhere else will try to leave that support system and come under your support if you are offering a better aid package. It is good to be generous but to give with wisdom.

Key Idea: Avoid being the most generous donor in town so that you do not become a target of unscrupulous people or undermine the efforts of others.

Consult Others Before Giving Out Aid



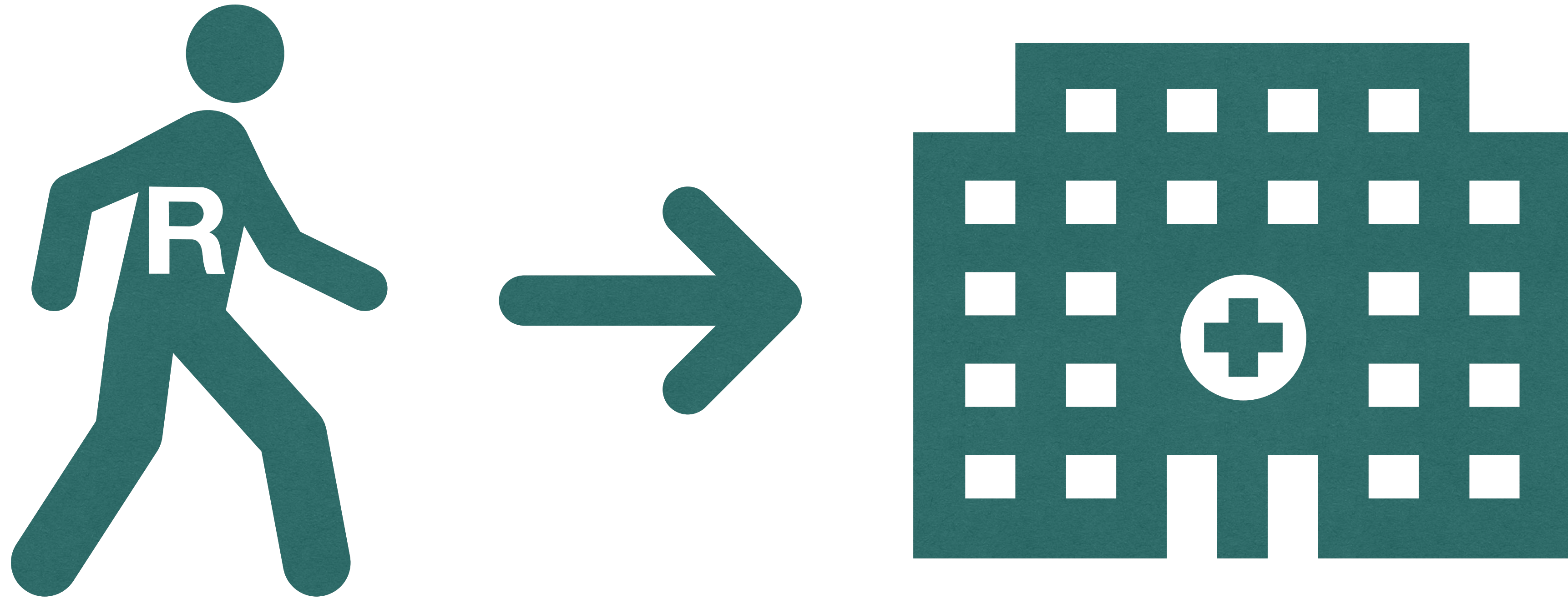
Key Idea: Get wise advice from the community (aid organizations, churches, trusted refugee friends) before giving out aid in order to avoid unseen complicated cultural issues and to avoid undermining the initiatives of other organizations.

Partner With Others To Expand Effectiveness



Key Idea: Partner with other groups to expand effectiveness if possible rather than starting something new that will duplicated existing efforts and needlessly use up limited resources.

Guide People Toward Needed Resources



Key Idea: Guide people towards appropriate and Christ-centered resources when dealing with issues that go beyond what you can provide.

Keep Confidential Matters Confidential



Key Idea: Keep confidential matters confidential when dealing with personal issues or you will lose the trust of the refugee community.

Share Your Faith Appropriately



Key Idea: Share your faith in a respectful and appropriate way so that both physical and spiritual needs are met in a way that does not encourage unhealthy dependency issues.



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Addressing Spiritual Needs

Do I Have Purpose?



*Our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. - adapted from the Westminster Shorter Catechism

*“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**”*
(1 Corinthians 10:31)

*“For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;** bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’”* (1 Chronicles 16:26-31)

Key Idea: Refugees need to know that they were created with a purpose and that they cannot truly fulfill that purpose apart from Christ.

Why Is This Happening to Me?

(Why Is Suffering in the World? Is God Good?)



*“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**’” (Genesis 2:15-17)*

*“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, **she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.” (Genesis 3:6-7)*

*“for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)*

*“**For the wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

Key Idea: Refugees want to know why this is all happening to them and why suffering exists in the world. They often question the goodness of God. It is good to share that God created a perfect world, mankind chose to sin, and that mankind's choice to sin brought the curse of sin and death into the world.

The Gospel: Good News



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*“And the Word became flesh and **dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)*

*“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he **was buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:1-6)*

*“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For **as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.** But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, **then at his coming those who belong to Christ.** Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**” (1 Corinthians 15:20-26)*

Key Idea: Refugees need to hear the good news that Jesus came, died on the cross for sins, rose from the dead breaking the curse of sin and death, went away to prepare a place for his followers, and will return to gather his followers and judge those who reject his sacrifice.

A New Heaven and Earth (A Better Future)



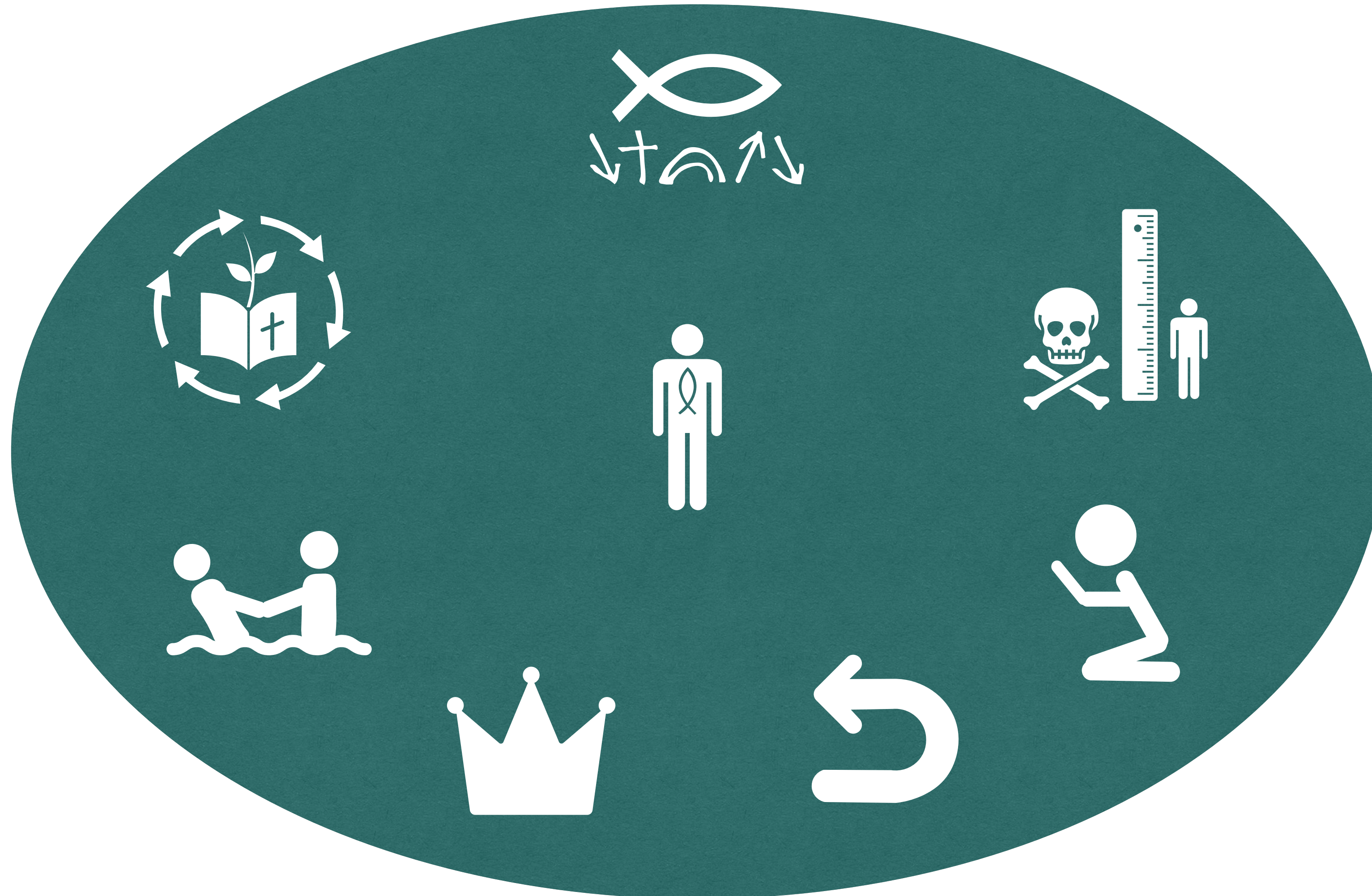
Suffering, for
Christians, is
temporary!

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**’ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”* (Revelations 21:1-4)

Key Idea: Jesus promises that when he returns he will create a new Heaven and Earth where believers can live with him for eternity without the curse of sin and death.

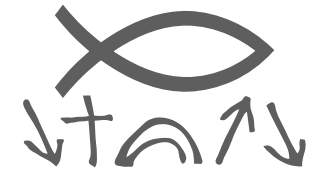
The Appropriate Response to the Gospel

- Believe
- Admit
- Confess
- Turn
- Follow
- Be Baptized
- Be Discipled



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- Believe that Jesus, the Son of God, came, died for your sins, rose from the dead, went away and is coming back. (John 20:31, Romans 10:9)



- Admit that you are a sinner and that you deserve death and Hell according to the Law. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)



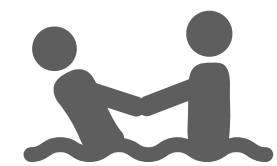
- Confess your sins in prayer and ask God to forgive you. (1 John 1:9)



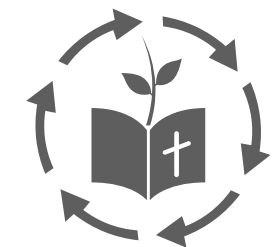
- Turn away from your sins. (Acts 3:19, Luke 13:3, Galatians 5:19-24)



- Follow Jesus as your Savior and King wherever he may lead. (Matthew 16:24-26)



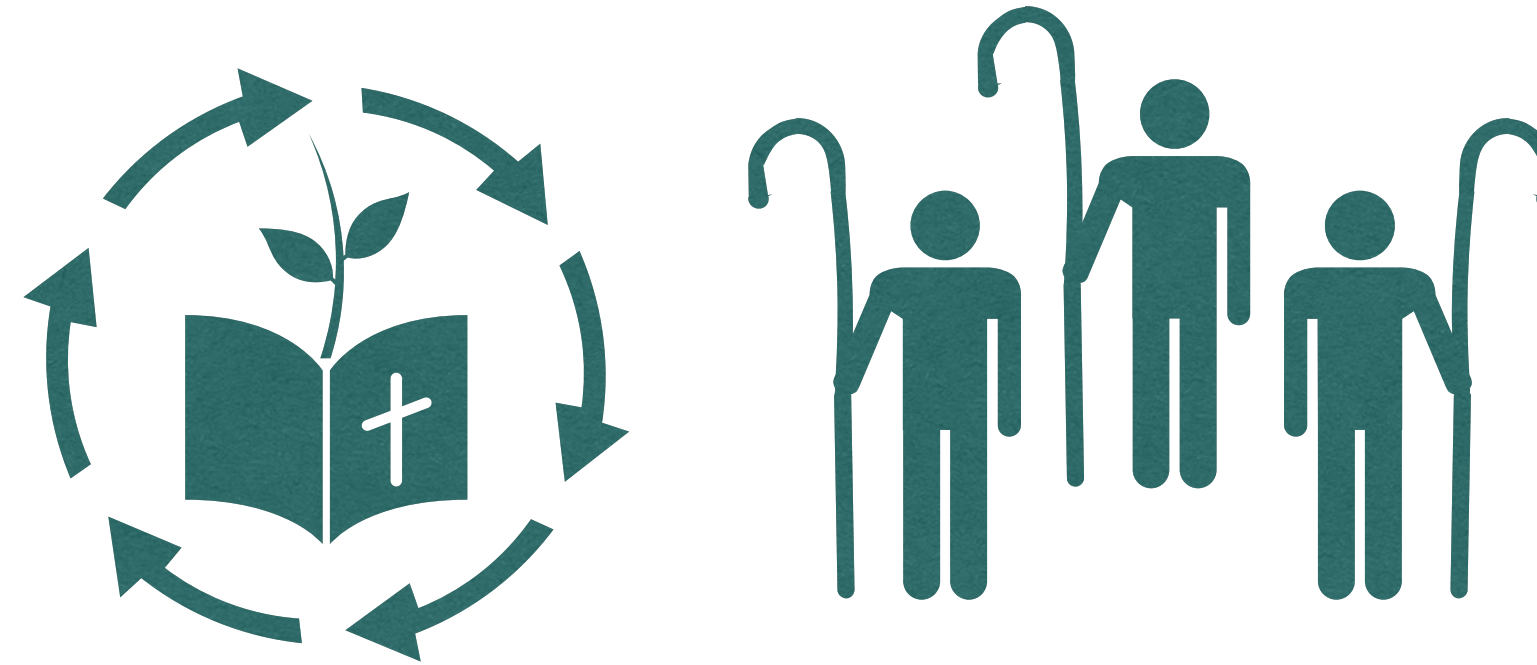
- Be baptized as a public step of faith in identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (Acts 2:38)



- Participate in lifelong, transformational discipleship through studying and obeying God's Word. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Key Idea: Refugees need to hear that there is an appropriate response to the Gospel that requires faith and action, belief and lifelong repentance.

Prioritize Discipleship and Leadership Development

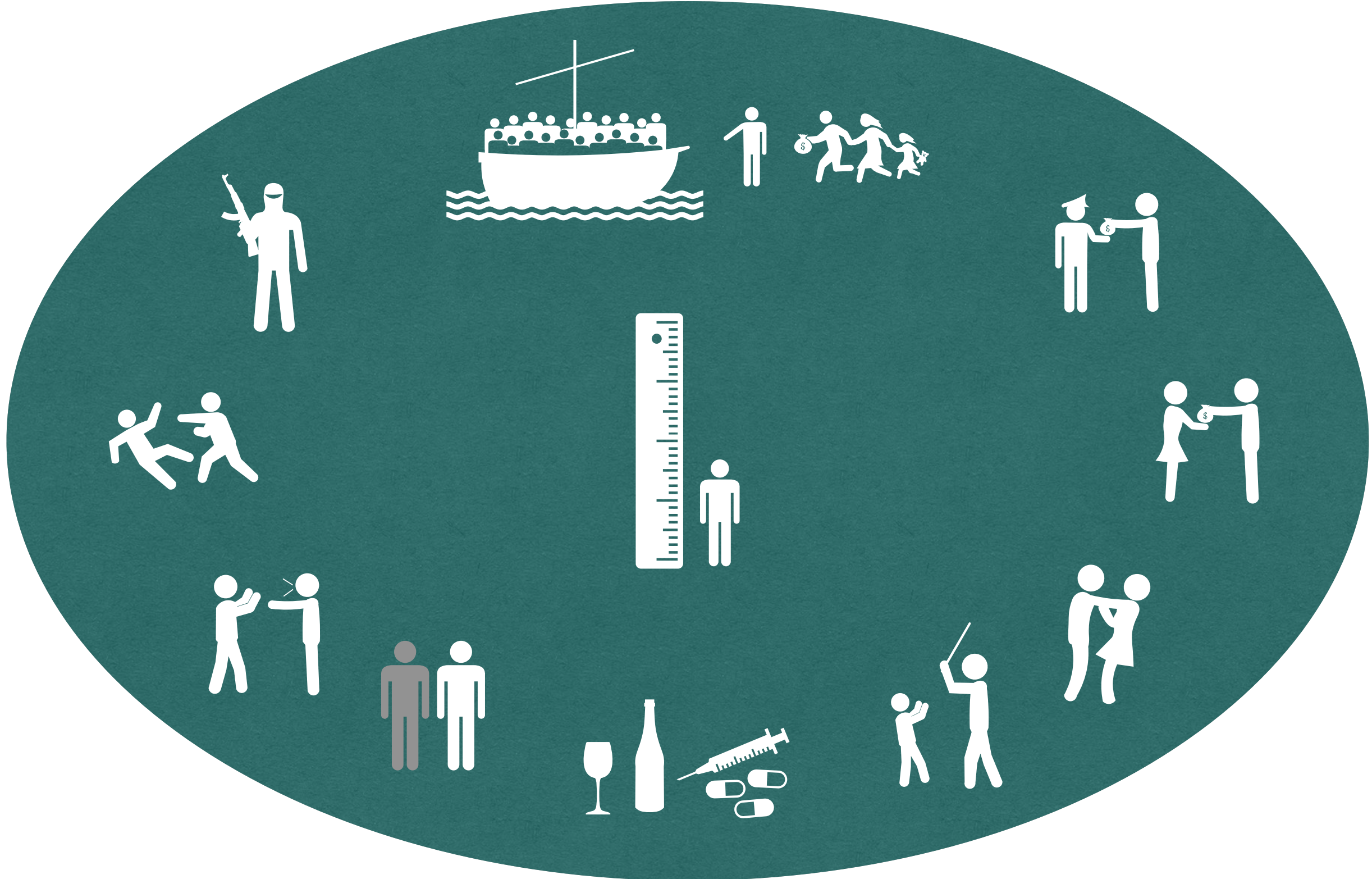


*Many asylum seekers have no idea what it means to follow Christ and in fact may have false ideas about what becoming a Christian means. Many refugees believe Hollywood represents true Christianity and see becoming a Christian as sensual freedom to engage in free sex or drugs and alcohol. Some type of individual or group discipleship is essential in helping new cross-cultural believers grasp the depth of the Gospel and experience the transformative power of the Christian life. But, because of the difficulties in cross-cultural communication, it is best to train other Christian refugees leaders who are able to clearly communicate these truths in the target language and who can customize the material to effectively address specific cultural misunderstandings.

Key Idea: Prioritize basic discipleship and leadership development in order to maximize the transformative impact of Christ among the refugee community and beyond.

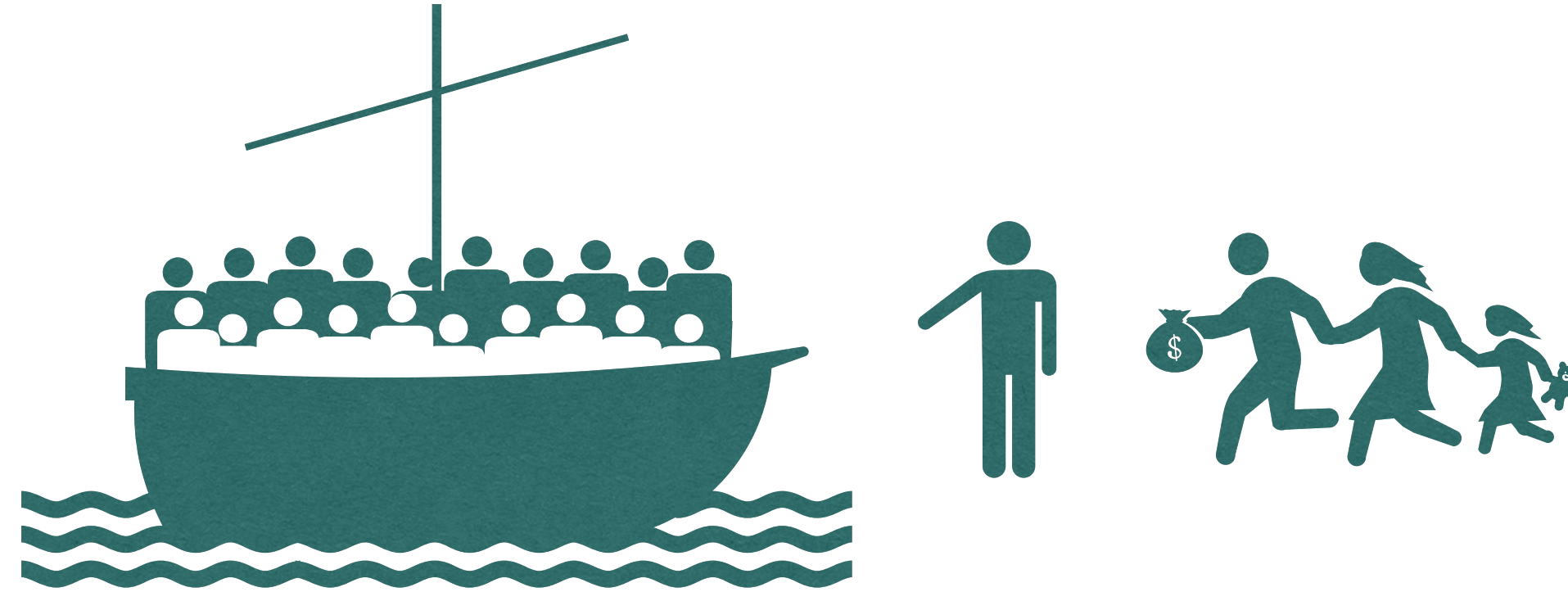
Be Aware of Common Morality Issues

- People smuggling and referral fees
- Bribery of officials
- Prostitution
- Sexual abuse
- Child abuse
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Racism
- Aggressive and violent behavior
- Extremism



Key Idea: Be aware of common morality issues among the asylum seeker population and address them often and openly.

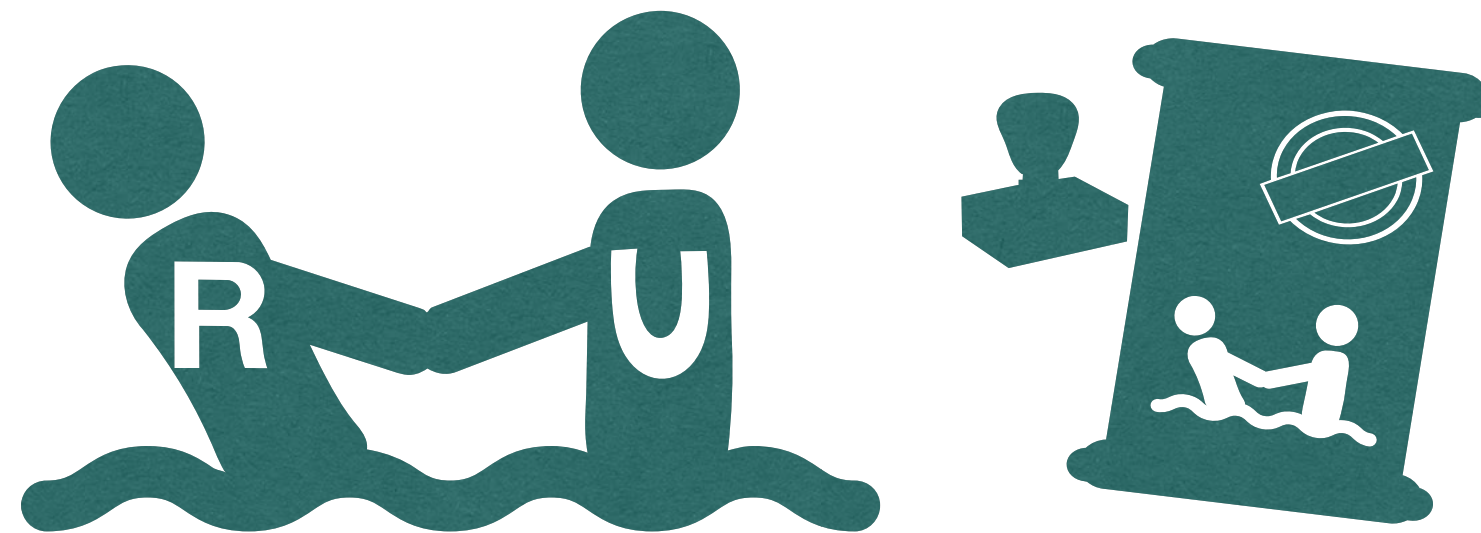
Beware of People Smugglers (And the Referral System)



*People smugglers may try to visit or join a church in order to find new passengers for their smuggling business. Smugglers offer referral fees (up to \$500 per person) for passengers referred to them. Sometimes church members may refer other members to a smuggler in order to get the referral fee. This may harm the reputation of individual believers and the entire congregation if not dealt with decisively. This may also cause additional government scrutiny of your church or cost the lives of asylum seekers who drown on inadequate or overcrowded boats.

Key Idea: Beware of people smugglers and the referral system as these things can endanger the lives of church members, cause legal issues, and harm your church or ministry's reputation in the community.

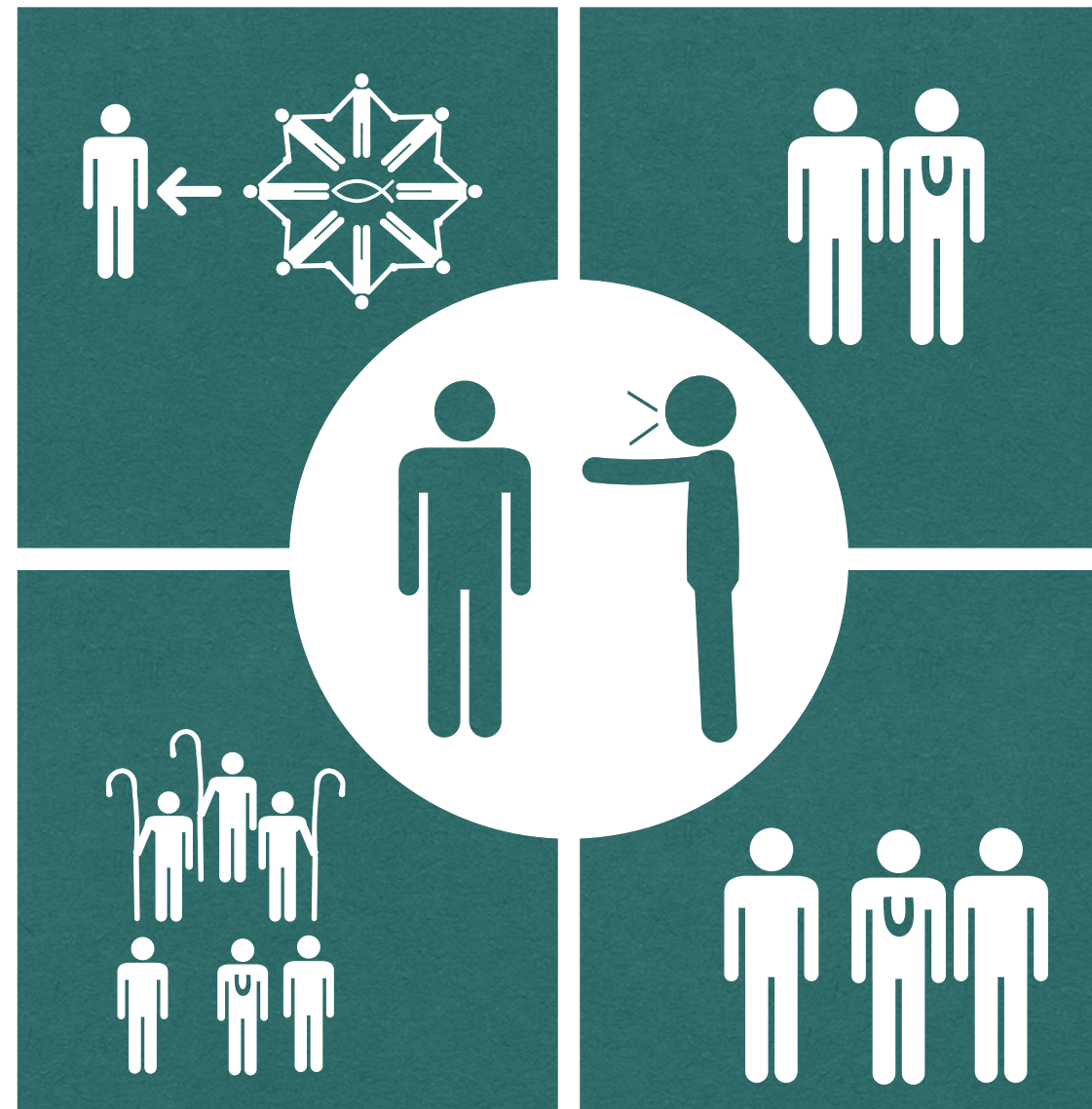
Baptism Can Be Used To Falsify a (Religious Persecution) Case



*Many economic migrants are told by smugglers and others that they can establish a religious persecution case by obtaining a baptismal certificate from a church. This baptismal certificate, along with a picture or video of the baptism, is given to UNHCR as proof that the asylum seeker cannot safely return to their homeland because of their new faith. UNHCR seems highly suspicious of baptismal certificates and tend to focus more on biblical literacy, active church participation, lifestyle, and actual evidence of persecution in the home country. It is good to be cautious about giving baptismal certificates as false conversion stories hurt other asylum seekers who have truly been persecuted for their faith.

Key Idea: Be aware that baptism can be used to falsely establish a religious persecution case with UNHCR.

Handle Conflict Quickly (Through Matthew 18)



- Meet one-on-one privately
- Take another person
- Bring it before the Church
- Treat them as an unbeliever

*“If your brother sins against you, **go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone.** If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, **take one or two others along with you,** that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, **tell it to the church.** And if he refuses to listen even to the church, **let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**” (Matthew 18:15-17)*

Key Idea: Conflict is a major destructive issue among Christian refugee groups and should be dealt with quickly, gently, and decisively through the Matthew 18 process in order to maintain a healthy Christian community.

Avoid Paying People To Come to Church (Including Transport Money)



*Avoid paying people to come to church because this creates motivational issues and false perceptions among asylum seekers and refugees. People assume that you or your church are getting outside aid money based on the number of refugees who attend your church (and suspect you may be keeping some for yourself). They may feel like they are doing you a favor by attending your church. They may also begin to feel entitled to this money and become frustrated when you do not pay for things like transportation. This limits your ministry growth to available ministry funds and overall develops unhealthy attitudes among the congregation.

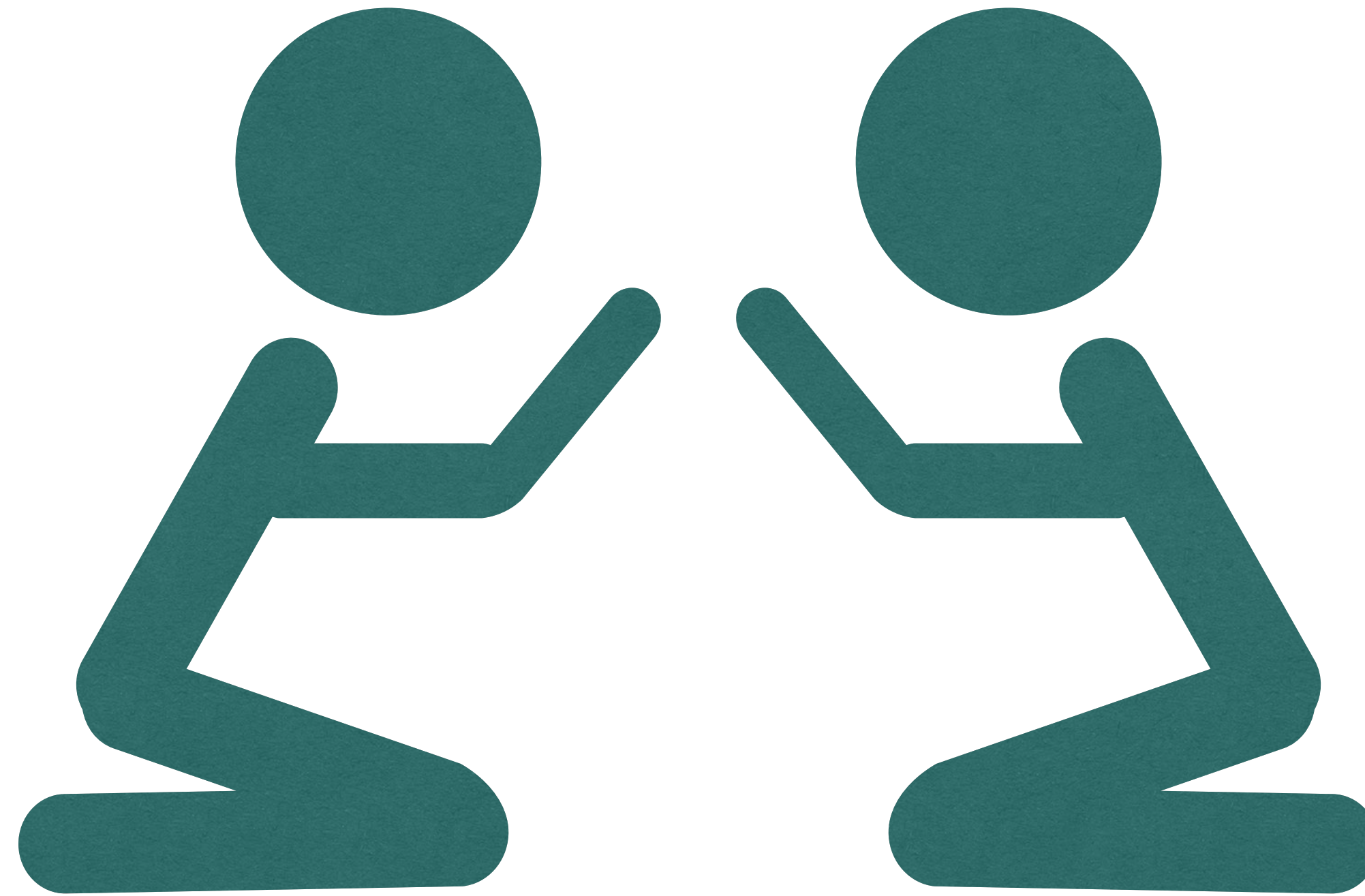
Key Idea: Avoid paying people to come to church as this creates an unhealthy dependency issue, feelings of entitlement, and financially limits the size of your ministry outreach.

Avoid Social Media Attention



Key Idea: Avoid posting online pictures or videos of refugees at religious activities without permission for the safety and security of asylum seekers and their families back home.

Organize Lots of Prayer!



Key Idea: God works most powerfully through the prayer of his people. Organize lots of prayer for refugees and see what wonderful things God does as he begins to transform lives (maybe even yours)!

Cultural Interaction

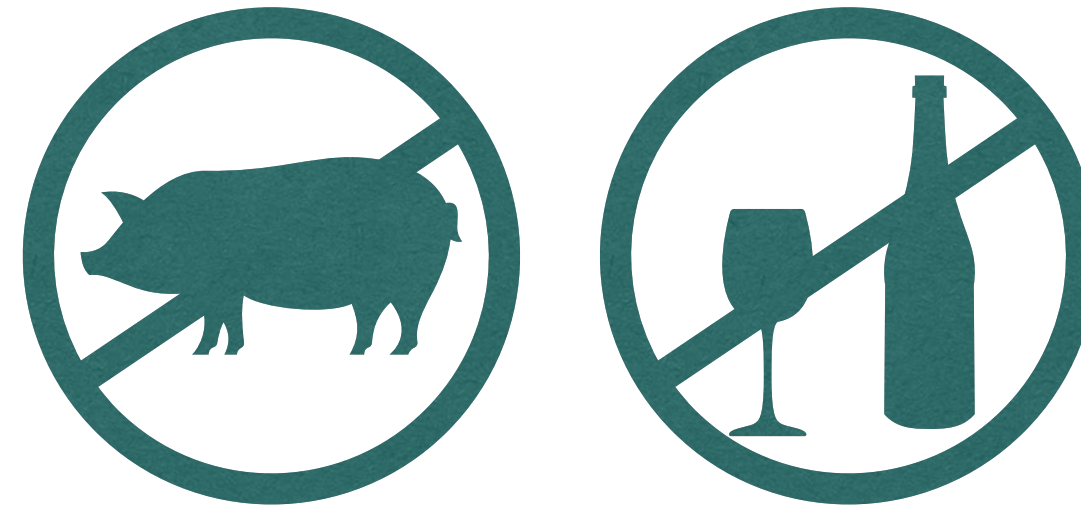
Bring a Gift When Visiting Refugee Homes



*Refugees often come from very hospitable cultures. They love to invite foreigners over and they almost always serve you a meal. In their excitement to have a foreigner over to their home they will spend more than they can really afford on the meal. They will feel somewhat obligated to serve you in the same style that they would serve a guest back home. This means they may struggle to make their food budget for that month. It is good if you are invited to a refugee home to bring a gift to help offset the cost of the meal. The gift can be soft drinks, bread, rice, or anything that you feel might be useful to the family. This is not required but it is a good practice.

Key Idea: When visiting a refugee's home bring a gift to offset the cost of the meal as refugees will typically serve you a meal that is more than they can afford.

Don't Serve Pork or Alcohol



*When you invite a refugee to visit your home for a meal ask about dietary restrictions. Do not serve pork or alcohol to Muslim refugees as this is considered very unclean in the Muslim world. In some very strict Muslim cultures refugees may fear that eating off of dishes that have been used for pork or alcohol would also make them unclean. Or they might fear that you will serve meat that has been processed in a way that is unclean for Muslims. Sometimes it is good to order out from a “halal” Muslim restaurant. Or it is always appropriate to invite a Muslim refugee to a restaurant and you pay. Not all Muslims care about these dietary restrictions but many do. There may be refugees from other religious groups that have other dietary restrictions.

Key Idea: Don't serve pork or alcohol to Muslim refugees as these are considered unclean in the Muslim world.

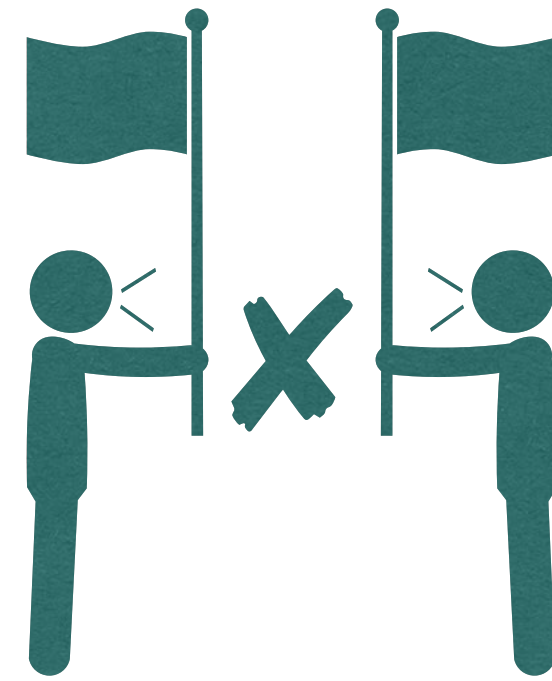
Coffee or Tea Are Good



*Whether meeting in a home or at a coffee shop or restaurant, serving coffee and tea are almost always a safe and acceptable social outlet for all cultures. Also, if having a group meeting in a refugee's home, these are things that a refugee most likely will be able to afford as a snack - although providing sugar may be a struggle.

Key Idea: Coffee and tea are symbols of hospitality in cultures around the world. Many refugees will not truly feel that they are welcomed into a community until they are invited into someone's home for tea and coffee.

Don't Talk Politics



*Most countries have complicated and difficult political issues that evoke strong emotions. Many refugees have been forced to flee their homes due to politics. If a refugee shares their political views with you be a listening ear but avoid the temptation to “fix” their political views or defend or criticize your own government’s policies on refugees or other sensitive subjects. The Church has a responsibility to reach out in the name of Christ to everyone within it’s reach but governments have other complicated priorities and responsibilities that may not align with those of the Church. Political conversations with refugees are rarely helpful and often harmful.

Key Idea: Avoid talking politics with refugees as political discussions can break relationships very quickly.



4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and Guarding
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