

Bible Study for December 21 - 27, 2020

Today we complete our Bible Studies provided through Lutheran World Relief, one of the largest relief agencies in the world. While their work takes place in most countries around the globe, these studies have hopefully given you some perspective on what they are doing in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. The full study, including videos, is available at: https://lwr.org/ai_file_subscribe/file/4638

LATIN AMERICA | PERU

Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-16

LEARN how your love helps neighbors in Peru. Peru is located in western South America, along the coast of the Pacific Ocean and shares a border with Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, Colombia and Ecuador. Nearly a third of the country's 32 million people live in the metro area of Lima, Peru's capitol city. Spanish is widely spoken throughout Peru, though the country is also home to more than 90 native languages. Since 1979, your love has been at work in Peru, reaching poor, rural families who depend on the land to survive. These are families that often have no running water or electricity to their homes. Putting your congregation's love to work in Peru means farming families learn to grow more and better quality crops that sell for a higher price, so they can support themselves and create more opportunity for their children. And your love is reaching desperate refugees who are finding safe haven in Peru. Millions of people are fleeing Venezuela amid a crippling economic and political crisis. The crisis is so severe that a month's salary can't even buy a day's worth of food. You are providing food, shelter and help with the immigration process to Venezuelan families streaming into Peru.

DISCUSS or Ponder

1. Betzaida's family was a working-class family in Venezuela before they had to leave their home. What do you think it was like leaving their home because they did not have access to medicine?
2. If you had to leave your home, not knowing if you would ever come back, what are three things you would make sure to take with you? Why?
3. Betzaida's family walked for 37 days to find a safe place to seek refuge. Recall a scary period in your life. Did your faith help you through? How?
4. Sadly, there are many more families like Betzaida's who are fleeing Venezuela right now seeking refuge in Peru. Lutheran World Relief is there to welcome them. How can you get involved in helping your neighbors like Betzaida, even from far away?

BIBLE STUDY

Today's Bible reading from 2 Samuel reminds us that God is with us wherever we go. Read 2 Samuel 7:10-11.

10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

1. In the reading from 2 Samuel, David experiences God's gift of home. What attributes of this home are described in the Bible reading?
2. Stories of God's people living in exile and without a home to call their own are common in scripture. How might this experience be similar to that of the Venezuelan refugees seeking refuge in Peru? How might it be different?
3. David's house is no longer with us, but God made known in the Holy Spirit remains with us always. Where do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your congregation?

PRAY

Gracious and holy God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. Lead us from despair to hope and from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love and from war to peace. Fill our world with peace and make a safe place for all who seek refuge, especially our neighbors searching for a new and just home in Peru. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope. Amen.

SHARE YOUR LOVE We invite you to send your love to your neighbors with the very least. Please consider a donation to LWF (or in Canada CLWR – Canadian Lutheran World Relief). Your love reaches further and stays longer, sustaining families in need and then sending help to the next village. Learn more at lwr.org/serve or clwr.org