

REFLECTION IDEAS – Jesus the Refugee

Matthew chapter 2 verses 13 to 23; Matthew chapter 25 verses 35 to 40

It's estimated that over 25 million people in the world today are refugees, people who have had to flee their country because of war, persecution, or a natural disaster. It is thought that half of these are children. Jesus was a refugee for just over three years when he had to leave his place of birth because King Herod wanted to kill him. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus made the long journey to Egypt of about 690km to get to a place of safety.

Christians believe that God understands the plight of refugees and he cares and values every single one. The Bible talks about loving our neighbour and showing hospitality to strangers. Christians believe we have a responsibility to welcome and care for those without food, water, or shelter.

The Bible story for this video comes just after the Christmas narrative in the New Testament and tells of the flight to Egypt by Mary, Joseph and the young Jesus to escape King Herod.

Reflection

- *What three things would you take with you if you had to leave home quickly?*
- *What could you do to be welcoming and sensitive to the needs of a refugee? At school or at home?*
- *In Matthew chapter 25, Jesus says that when we help anyone in need it is as if we are helping him, and that he remembers our kind acts. As a response to this, whilst we may not be able to help refugees directly, we could play our part and help those around us. Over the next week try to do something each day that helps someone else.*

Links

A short version of the bible story can be found here: <https://youtu.be/Zk1LhngROCM>

Please check if this is suitable for your group.

Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Refugee Rucksack



Equipment

Large rucksack

Roughly 15 everyday objects. Example list: pencils, paper pad, reading book, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush, flannel, knife, fork, spoon, plate, bowl, water bottle, photo of family, teddy bear.

Paper and pencils

Instructions

A refugee is someone who has had to leave their home because of danger. Sometimes they leave because of war or because their home is no longer safe for them. If you had to leave your home in a hurry, what would you take with you? What if you could only take 6 of the items from the table in front of you? What if you could only take 3? If you would like to, write or draw a thought or a prayer for a refugee and put it in one of the rucksacks.

inspire
prayer spaces

See below for activity sheet

Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource

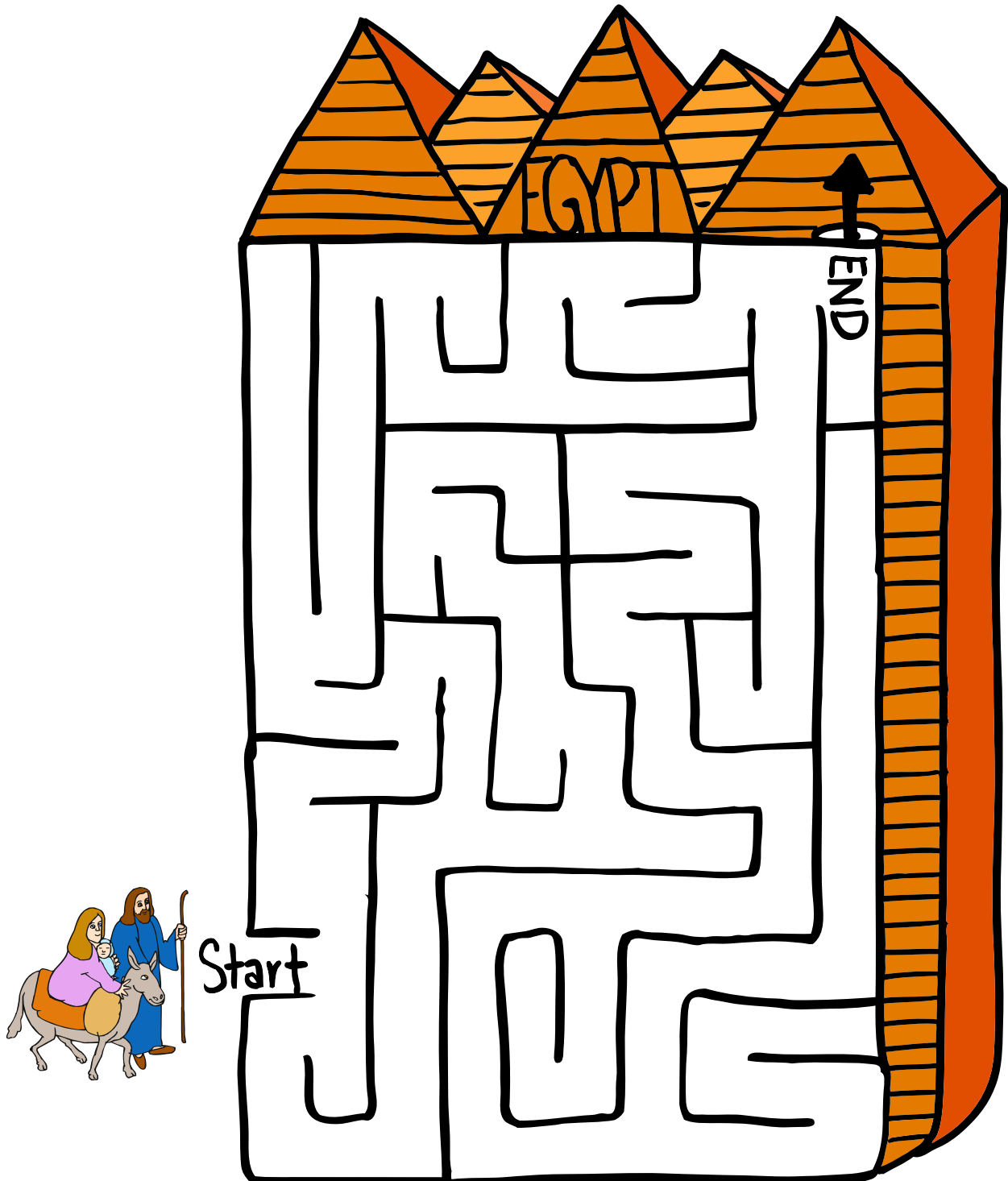
Escape to Egypt

Matthew chapter 2 verses 13 to 23

BibleWise

Jesus Departs for Egypt

Follow the maze of Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus' journey to Egypt to escape King Herod.



Word finder

Matthew chapter 25 verses 35 to 40

In the video the team shared a bible passage in which Jesus tells us that we should look after people in need. The pictures are clues to things that Jesus said that we can help with. Fill in the words. The highlighted letters spell a word for a person that might need that help.



d				
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f						
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f			
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h				
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c							
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h					
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c			
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l			
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Who might need all of these things?

Spinning earth craft

The template of the globe can be used to make a spinning earth to help us to think about those around the world that have had to leave their homes to escape war, persecution or natural disaster.

You will need:

copies of the templates below – enlarged if you wish; wool or string; beads or similar to act as weights; pens or pencils; glue stick.

Colour and cut out the world images. Fold each in half vertically and stick the circles together with the string through the middle, to create a spinning globe. Thread the beads onto the string so that the globe can hang and catch the wind.

