

SOLIDARITY SLEEPOUT



Discussion and games pack for group leaders

Group discussion exercise

This stimulates discussion and gets the group thinking and talking about why taking part in the Solidarity Sleepout is so important. It's useful to have a number of Bibles to hand for the passage readings.

Read this to the group:

Two-thirds of people forced from their homes are still in their own country. They want to feel safe, but they either can't or don't want to leave. They're denied the official protection given to refugees, so they're vulnerable.

Displaced people are forced to leave everything – their homes, their livelihoods. Often, they have to leave at short notice, so they can't take their treasured possessions with them. Also, they usually have no money. They can't buy a new home, so they have to seek their own shelter.

Ask the group these questions:

- Imagine you suddenly had to flee your home. What are the three things you would take with you?
- How would it make you feel if this happened to you?
- What would you use to build a shelter for yourself and your family?

Bible reading exercises

Read Matthew 25:35-40:

- 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
- 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."
- 37 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?"
- 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?"
- 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"
- 40 And the King will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Ask the group these questions:

- What does Jesus call us to do when people are in need? Why does he call us to do this?
- What does he call us to do in response to the displacement crisis?



Read Matthew 5:14-16:

- 14 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
- 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.
- 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Ask the group these questions:

- As Christians, we are the light of the world. What does that mean?
- As Christians, how can we bring Jesus' love into the lives of people who are displaced?*

**Think of practical and achievable ideas, e.g. writing to the local MP as a group, or holding regular prayer sessions.*

The 'Gimme Shelter' challenge

You'll need to have a reasonable amount of space wherever you're spending the night for the Sleepout. It's a good idea to set a relatively short time limit (30 minutes, perhaps) on this exercise to build excitement.

You'll also need:

- As many cardboard boxes as you can get your hands on (you can usually get banana boxes at the supermarket for free)
- Blankets
- Duct tape, or really strong sticky tape

How to play:

- Stack the boxes high to create a rectangular wall for your house.
- Leave enough space for everyone to sleep within the confines of the wall.
- Leave space on one side of the wall for people to get in and out.
- Tape the boxes together to keep the wall from falling over.
- Spread the blankets over the top of the wall to create a roof.
- Tape the blankets to the top of the roof.
- Decorate your house with Christian Aid bunting and the Solidarity Sleepout banner.
- Post pictures and selfies with the house – use **#SolidaritySleepout** and post a link to your JustGiving page.

