

# WEEK 7: BORDERS AND IMMIGRATION: WHY DO SOME CHRISTIANS HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS?

## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### PREPARE

Listen and subscribe to the Mariners Life Group Leader Podcast.

If you missed the weekend message or want to review specific points, you can always watch, listen, and find bulletin notes online at [marinerschurch.org/messages](http://marinerschurch.org/messages).

### MAIN POINT

Yale professor of geography, Ellsworth Huntington, said: “History in its broadest aspect is a record of man’s migration from one environment to another.” In many ways the story of the world is a story of migration. The Scripture recounts many of God’s people as immigrants. During a famine, Abram immigrated to Egypt. Abraham’s descendants immigrated to Egypt. Moses also fled to a new land when his life became endangered, and then led a group of oppressed people refugees out of Egypt. When they arrived in the Promised Land, God made the borders of their land clear. Ruth, a woman from Moab, immigrated to Israel after her husband died. She married a man named Boaz to form part of the lineage of Jesus. Those are stories, descriptions of what happened, and not prescriptive verses. But there are prescriptive verses. Some Christians point to verses about “welcoming the stranger,” and others about “borders, nations, and obeying the government.” How do we hold both passages together? How can we think biblically about both borders and the immigrant?

### LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

**When you think about the different places people call home around the world, what is one quality or aspect of a community that feels most important to you? How do you see that value reflected in your own community or experiences?**

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LOOK DOWN  
LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

**Read Acts 17:26. What do you notice about God's sovereignty in shaping nations, cultures, and the movement of people across the earth?**

**Read Zechariah 7:9-10. What does this passage say about how we should treat people who are oppressed and disenfranchised?**

**Read Numbers 34:2. What does God's instruction about the borders of the land show about His attention to structure, order, and boundaries?**

**Read Romans 13:1-3. What does Paul teach about the role of government and the responsibility of Christians to submit to authorities?**

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LOOK OUT  
IDENTIFY THE  
RELEVANCE OF GOD'S  
WORD IN THE WORLD

**What is it that makes the topic of immigration and border security so divisive and difficult to talk about today?**

**In his sermon, Eric cited Proverbs 18:2 which says this: "A fool does not delight in understanding, but only wants to show off his opinions." How should this verse inform how we talk about difficult topics like this?**

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LOOK IN  
APPLY GOD'S WORD  
TO YOUR LIFE

**How might we be people of peace and grace in the midst of constant conflict about the topics of immigration and border control? How could you embody the posture of Jesus in real, everyday ways?**

**In what ways can we be regularly praying for immigrants, our government, and the many different issues at the center of this topic?**

### **Leader Notes**

**This section helps you grasp the key themes and intended outcomes of the discussion before you lead your group. These notes are not the group questions; they simply guide your preparation so you can lead with clarity and shepherd the conversation well. You may also find them helpful at the end of your discussion to wrap up your time together.**

### **Think About It**

God created every person in His image, yet we live in a fallen world marked by sin. We are called to love both the Kingdom of God and our earthly communities, to care for our homes while offering hospitality to strangers, and to respect government authority while ultimately serving Christ. How might reflecting on these tensions help you see immigration, borders, and human diversity through a lens that balances justice, mercy, and wisdom?

### **What Will You Do?**

This week, consider how you can reflect God's image in both your love for your community and your care for outsiders, whether through prayer, service, advocacy, or conversations? And as you encounter people who see things differently, what intentional steps can you take to "put on" love and understanding?

### **Changing Your Mind**

*Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*  
(Colossians 3:14)