

**Episcopal Migration Ministries**  
**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – First Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Background:** This is the second in a four-part series focusing on refugee resettlement through Episcopal Migration Ministries. Today's lesson focuses on the ways in which we are called to the ministry of refugee resettlement through our Baptism, through the work of the Holy Spirit and through passion for justice for all of God's people.

**Theme: I Have Called You By Name**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the Bible or copies of the lesson, copies of The Book of Common Prayer, copies of the activities you intend to use.

**Beginning:** As we are reminded in today's Gospel, everyone is baptized and called by name into ministry. Oftentimes the most difficult part is discerning exactly what that ministry should be. During this season of Epiphany, we are going to record, for our own eyes only, "epiphanies" that come to us through the Gospel readings about in what ways we are called into ministry with refugees, in particular. Each Sunday we will discern our gifts, skills, resources, and "epiphanies," all of which will lead us into a greater understanding of how God is calling us by name.

**Opening Prayer:** O God, we ask your loving protection of all refugees yearning for freedom and hope in a new land. May we ever remember that the Holy Family, too, were refugees as they fled persecution. Bless, guide and lead us in faith to open doors and to open our hearts through this ministry of hospitality. Give us strength, vision and compassion as we work together to welcome those in need. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

**The Scripture:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-2 Suggest that you read together these passages twice. Once with a male reader. The second time with a female reader.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire?
- What do you believe your baptism calls you to do? To believe?

**Option:** Use one of the gifts discernment activities on Called to Transformation, [www.calledtoformation.com](http://www.calledtoformation.com). Be sure to allot sufficient time to finish the exercise. When it is complete, ask if anyone would like to share what they learned about themselves.

**Closing Prayer:** In place of a traditional prayer, read the questions in the Baptismal Covenant, found on page 292 of the Book of Common Prayer and online here:  
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/baptismal-covenant>.

### **Episcopal Migration Ministries**

Episcopal Migration Ministries welcomes thousands of refugees each year from conflict zones across the globe. Working in partnership with offices and groups within the church as well as with governments, nongovernment organizations, and a network of 30 affiliate offices in 26 dioceses, EMM provides vital services for thousands of refugee families upon their arrival in the United States. More information at [www.episcopalchurch.org/emm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm).

### **The Episcopal Public Policy Network**

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) is a grassroots network of Episcopalians across the country dedicated to carrying out the Baptismal Covenant call to "strive for justice and peace" through the active ministry of public policy advocacy. EPPN is part of The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations located in Washington, D.C. The actions, programs, and ministry of the Office of Government Relations are based entirely on policies approved by the church meeting in General Convention or by the Executive Council. More at <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org>.

*If you have questions, contact Allison Duvall, EMM's manager for Church Relations and Engagement, at (212) 716-6027 or [aduvall@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:aduvall@episcopalchurch.org). She will be happy to assist you in enriching your lesson plan with information about Episcopal Migration Ministries and refugee resettlement.*

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