

SHARING IN HOPE: HOW COOKING IN HOPE HELPS REFUGEES IN LEBANON

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LUKE 3:7-18 | WHOEVER HAS, MUST SHARE



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ADVENT WEEK 3 | SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

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LEARN HOW YOUR LOVE IS SHARED WITH REFUGEES IN LEBANON

Lutheran World Relief has supported humanitarian assistance and development in the Middle East since 1948. In late 2017, LWR began working in Lebanon to address diminishing economic opportunities and improve social cohesion between Lebanese locals and Syrian and Iraqi refugees. When an explosion rocked Beirut in August 2020, your love rushed to help thousands of your neighbors to recover stronger.

Syria's prolonged civil war, ongoing conflict in Iraq and continued instability in Palestinian territories have forced scores of people to settle in neighboring Lebanon, with one refugee for every four Lebanese nationals. The burden of hosting at such a challenging time places significant strain on host communities.

Your love through Lutheran World Relief provides immediate assistance while promoting livelihood and economic growth programs that are open to refugees and host communities alike, so that peace is maintained and prosperity is a realistic, and shared, goal.

WATCH



<https://youtu.be/OE9j-1IKUk8>



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DISCUSS

1. What did you notice when you saw the images of the Lebanese landscape?
2. Amal al Hilabi says she has a “love of giving.” Do you know people with that same love? How do they gather people together and share with others?
3. Amal helps her neighbors by preparing food and selling it to others. Talk about your experiences sharing food with others. What is it about sharing a meal that brings people together?



BIBLE STUDY

The Bible reading for the day begins with harsh words from John the Baptist, “You brood of vipers!” John’s words may be harsh, but they garnered the attention of the crowd.

The people came to see John, specifically to be baptized by him, but his first words didn’t speak of compassion. Could they, however, be meant as a gift rather than a warning?

Today’s text invites us as God’s people to share. We are the ones who get to be gift-givers and bearers of hope. Around us this season, we experience the prevailing culture of gift-giving and celebrations. But how can we make this season of hope more prevalent? How can we turn the harsh words that are spoken or heard into a charge to share love? Read together **Luke 3:10-14**.

1. Where has someone shared with you? Where have you shared with others? How did God encourage you in your sharing?
2. John begins with harsh words. Recall (and share as you are comfortable) a time that you needed to use a harsh word to get someone’s attention. Has anyone spoken to you harshly in order to meet a larger purpose?
3. The people were filled with expectation *and* were questioning in their hearts about whether John was the messiah or not. What do you question?



PRAY

God of Expectations and Questions, be with us. We desire to be of service to others. We



Amal al Hilabi’s kitchen in Lebanon where she employs refugees in her community who are looking for jobs.

hope to offer what we have. Yet, our hearts can be guarded at times. Open our hands to give. Help us to release our time and money in service to our neighbors. Teach us to share and to lavish blessings on those we meet. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who meets all our expectations and showers us with love. Amen.



SHARE YOUR LOVE

As we eagerly wait for Christ’s coming, so many of our neighbors around the world are also waiting ... For food. For clean water. For medical care. For hope.

When you help neighbors like Amal and her refugee friends through Lutheran World Relief, you spread hope throughout the world. Who will you reach next?

Visit lwr.org/hope to make your gift and be a light in the darkness for someone in need.



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