

# HOPE AND ACTION

Understanding Immigration Today and  
Equipping Faithful Response

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# Where do our views originate?

## AS A CHRISTIAN WHERE DO YOUR VIEWS ABOUT IMMIGRATION ORIGINATE?



LIST THE BIBLE AS THEIR SOURCE FOR  
THEIR VIEWS OF IMMIGRANTS AND  
IMMIGRATION.



LIST THE MEDIA AS THEIR SOURCE FOR  
THEIR VIEWS OF IMMIGRANTS AND  
IMMIGRATION.

2022 LIFEWAY POLL

The identity of the people of God is  
inextricably tied with the story of  
**movement, risk and hospitality.**

Rev. Dr. Daniel Groody

# Biblical Framework

1. All humans are made in the image of God

*Gen 1: 2*

2. No hierarchy among people, tribes, languages

*Rev 7:9*

3. God cares about the vulnerable: orphan, widow, foreigner. Caring for the vulnerable is a command

*Deuteronomy 10:19-21*

4. We are commanded to love our neighbor

*Mark 12:30-35*

5. Christian history is one of migration

*Acts , Epistles*

**Contextualization** is the word we use for the process of making the gospel as much at home as possible in a given cultural context. **American Christians** tend to think of contextualization as something **missionaries do “over there,”** and many serious Christians in the Western world worry about how far non-Western churches go in their contextualization efforts.

But in reality, every Christian alive today is actively involved in contextualization. Every American Christian worships in a contextualized church. The question is not whether or not we are going to contextualize. **Every believer alive contextualizes the gospel and the church to their own culture, since none of us are first century Palestinian Jews.**

**The question facing every believer and church, therefore, is whether or not they will contextualize well.**

# Migration Stories

## 1. **Abraham + Sarah | Genesis 12:1-9**

- Go to a land I will show you
- I will bless those who bless you
- Severe famine leads to Egypt

## 1. **Joseph | Genesis 39**

- Sold and taken to Egypt
- Slave in Potiphar's household
- Put in prison





# Migration Stories

## 3. Moses | Exodus 2:1-4

- Placed the child in the basket among the reeds
- Midwives refuse to follow immoral laws

## 4. Joshua | Joshua 4:1-4

- The whole nation crossed the Jordan River

## 5. Ruth and Naomi | Ruth 1

- Double Migration due to famine
- Rules to protect sojourners





# Migration Stories

## 6. Daniel | Daniel 1:1-4

- Babylon besieged Jerusalem
- Forced into exile in Babylon

## 7. Jesus | Matthew 2:1-17

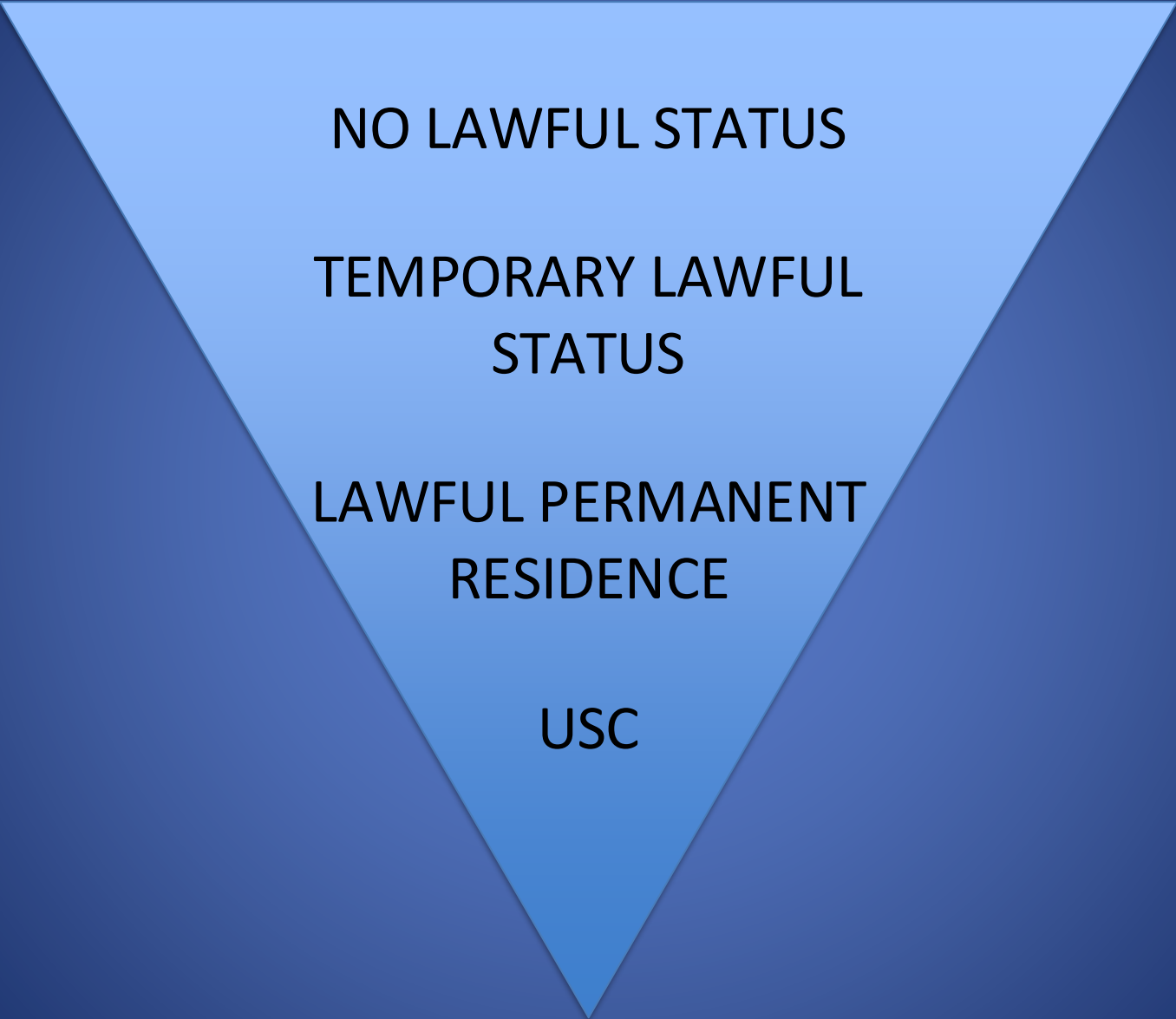
- “Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt””



# Fact versus Fiction

- Foreign invasion
- Threat to national security
- Public benefits
- Criminal activity
- Just get a visa





NO LAWFUL STATUS

TEMPORARY LAWFUL  
STATUS

LAWFUL PERMANENT  
RESIDENCE

USC



# Ways to immigrate to the U.S.

- Family
- Money
- Work/Education
- Fear/Other Humanitarian Options

# Common obstacles to admission

- Lying
- Criminal history
- Terrorism
- Immigration history
- Public charge

# How long is the wait, really?

|                      | All      | China    | India    | Mexico   | Philippines |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Child over 21 of USC | 8 years  | 8 years  | 8 years  | 19 years | 13 years    |
| Child/Spouse of LPR  | 2 years  | 2 years  | 2 years  | 2 years  | 2 years     |
| Child over 21 of LPR | 8 years  | 8 years  | 8 years  | 17 years | 13 years    |
| Married child of USC | 14 years | 14 years | 14 years | 25 years | 20 years    |
| Sibling of USC       | 17 years | 17 years | 19 years | 25 years | 19 years    |

# How did we get here?

- Page Act of 1875
- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Emergency Quota Act of 1921
- Immigration Act of 1924
- Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952
- Immigration and Reform Control Act of 1986
- Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
- Other piecemeal legislation, regulations, executive actions, and policies

# Recent changes in Immigration Law

- Pauses – immigrant visa, nonimmigrant visa, asylum, USCIS benefits
- Travel bans
- Adjustment of status “green card” memo
- Temporary Protected Status
- Executive Orders – birthright citizenship
- Parole Programs
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA/Dreamers)
- Public charge rules
- Deportation/removal priorities



Q & A

# TAKE IT FORWARD

## PERSONAL CHANGE

- Personal inventory. What are your identity labels and how are they arranged? What is your posture?
- Repent from the stories you have told yourself about others.
- Listen to the stories YOU carry from your own story of migration. Identify your own pull/push factors.
- Listen to the stories of your ancestors who made their way here at some time in history.
- Instead of figuring out WHAT to do, ask **WHO do you want to be?** What is your hermeneutic lens?

## NARRATIVE CHANGE

- Do not bear false witness.
- Refuse to use dehumanizing language and teach others.
- Embracing and acknowledging different is not the same as othering

# TAKE IT FORWARD

## SYSTEMS CHANGE

- Lead a Bible Study in your area using “The God Who Sees” by Karen Gonzalez
- Organize your friends and do a “calling day” | Calling Monday
- Organize your friends and do a writing day | Writing Wednesday
- Community Mapping: learn about the orgs in your area providing direct support
- Attend a verifier training and get trained for community response
- Get familiar with the schools and get connected

## RESET - BREATHE - CENTER

- Stay human + and defy the savior myth
- LAMENT