



December 2017

# Refuge & Hope

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:16-18,  
Genesis 25:19-33

## FOCUS MINISTRY

Refuge & Hope International

### *fellowship!*

“The Impact of Welcome”

Winter 2017-2018

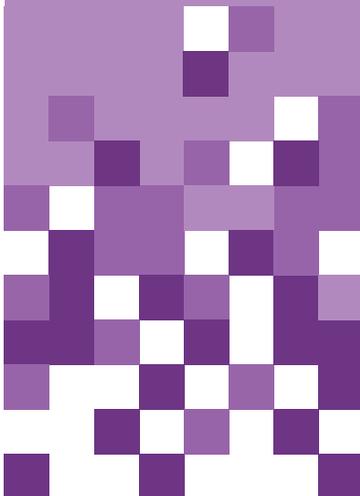
[http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/dec17-feb18\\_fellowship\\_final?e=1254077/55937623](http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/dec17-feb18_fellowship_final?e=1254077/55937623)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Abigail Pratt** lives in Richmond, VA where she serves as the Associate Pastor of Families and Mission at Central Baptist Church. Abby graduated from Wake Forest University School of Divinity in 2014 and was ordained by Peace Haven Baptist Church (also in Winston-Salem, NC). With roots in Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia, Abby is a fan of KU Basketball, the Kansas City Royals, Cheerwine, and tacky Christmas lights.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it is written, “So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation...” For two young men, Refuge & Hope is a new creation within their lives in the midst of great loss. They, in turn, have also helped to make it a new creation for other young refugees who have come to Kampala, Uganda. Jacob and Esau Francis are twins from South Sudan who came to Refuge & Hope after being forced to flee their home. The boys first came to the Refuge & Hope school in search of a safe place to spend their days. With no money or a place to live, the boys had been living on the streets. Shortly after coming to the school, Jacob and Esau became leaders within the youth group. In this lesson, you will learn more about Jacob and Esau’s story, Refuge & Hope, and God’s promise of the new creation. Within these stories you are invited to hear the message of hope through the formation of “new creations” within the lives of teenage refugees and within our Christian story.

- **ENGAGE:** Students will be prompted to start thinking about new creations through observing old things and reflecting on how these items and others have been recreated.
- **EQUIP:** Students will read both Genesis 25:19-33 and 2 Corinthians 5:17, continuing with the theme of new creation by reading the “old” story of Jacob and Esau, comparing it to the story of Jacob and Esau Francis, and studying Paul’s proclamation to the church in Corinth.
- **EXTEND:** Students will reflect on what they have learned and what “new creation” looks like in their lives today through small groups or journaling.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will organize and host a Great Escape Race to raise awareness and funds for Refuge & Hope.





# Refuge & Hope

## LEARNING GOAL

Students will learn to hear the message of hope within the lives of teenage refugees and within our Christian story.

## GETTING READY

1. Read “The Impact of Welcome: The Story of Jacob and Esau” on pp. 14-19 in the Winter 2017-2018 issue of *fellowship!* magazine.
2. Gather materials: Map of the World, Map of Africa and five “old” items  
Optional: Laptop with Wifi, whiteboard/poster and markers, journals, Refuge & Hope’s The Great Escape Race Toolkit (available from [info@refugeandhope.org](mailto:info@refugeandhope.org))

## ENGAGE

1. Play “Now and Then.”
  - Set out 5 items from the past such as VHS/cassette tape, vintage tennis racquet, vintage clothing, etc.
  - Ask Students to observe the items by:
    1. Identifying them
    2. Identifying how they were used
    3. Identifying when they were used
  - Ask Students to compare these items to things they use today.
  - Brainstorm how the items from the past have been “recreated” to be more effective, helpful etc. In some cases the old items might (arguably) be better!?
2. Share with Students that the focus of today’s lesson is the new creation found through faith in Christ.
3. Ask students to locate South Sudan and Uganda on a map. It might be helpful to have both a map of the World and of Africa. Share with students that today you will be learning about twins who grew up in South Sudan but now live in Kampala, Uganda.
4. Share with them Jacob and Esau Francis’ story found in *fellowship!* If you would like to use a video, an interview with Jacob and Esau is available at:  
<https://vimeo.com/222860366>

## EQUIP

1. Ask students if they have heard of another set of twins named Jacob and Esau?
2. Read: Genesis 25:19-33
3. Either verbally or in writing have students compare and contrast the two stories of the twins named Jacob and Esau
4. Share with students that while Jacob and Esau Francis share the same names as the Biblical twins, they greatly differ from Isaac and Rebekah’s sons in that they have chosen to stick together rather than fight with one another.
5. In a way, Jacob and Esau Francis are living a life that is a new creation of the biblical twins, Jacob and Esau. Refuge & Hope and their faith in God is the foundation of this new creation.
6. Ask students to think of other stories of new creation, transformation, and new life from the Bible?



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7. Share with them briefly about Paul's conversion and use this story to introduce Paul's proclamation of faith found in 2 Corinthians 5:16-18.
  1. Share with students that in this text Paul is both reflecting on his own conversion and teaching the church in Corinth.
  2. Faith in God and making a commitment to follow Christ is an invitation and a challenge to become part of and be a new creation.
  3. Ask students to describe what they think Paul is talking about with this new creation?
    1. What was new creation to the early Church
    2. What is new creation for all Christians
    3. What is not new creation?
  4. Ask students to identify the new creation within the lives of Jacob and Esau Francis. (You could also share that new creation can be seen within the ministry of Refuge & Hope. The youth group is a beautiful example of new creation in that young people from feuding countries, tribes, and groups, have come together to comfort, support, and love one another).

## EXTEND

1. Invite students to either journal or talk in small groups reflecting on what they have learned today.
2. Ask:
  1. What surprised you?
  2. What are you going to keep thinking about after you leave today?
  3. What questions do you have?
3. Invite students to think about their own lives
  1. What is their new creation?
  2. What old things might need to pass away or be taken away in order to live in God's new creation?
4. End your time together by forming a circle. Ask students to share one word or phrase about their new creation, what they have learned today, or their hope for God's new creation.

## MISSION PROJECT

### THE GREAT ESCAPE: A REFUGEE'S RACE FOR FREEDOM

Organize and host a Great Escape Race as a way to share what you have learned about refugees with your church family and community while also raising money for Refuge & Hope. The Great Escape Race was started by Refuge & Hope in 2014. The race, which consists of both expected and unexpected challenges, is a wonderful tool to educate and sensitize people to the difficulties refugees face when fleeing their homes.

Visit <https://refugeandhope.nm-secure.com/GreatEscape> to learn more about The Great Escape Races or contact [info@refugeandhope.org](mailto:info@refugeandhope.org) and ask for their Toolkit and resources for planning a race.

While you have the freedom to set the registration cost, Refuge & Hope asks that at least 80% of the proceeds be directed to Refuge & Hope International. With your help, Refuge & Hope is able to continue to provide educational, professional and personal development opportunities to refugees living in Kampala, Uganda.