

Before the Story:

Say: Nell Green decided that she wanted to do more to help refugees find work. She felt led with her daughter to start a company called Threads by Nomad, which employs refugees in the United States in a fair-trade clothing company. Then Nell wanted to do even more, and she created the non-profit The Off Ramp to help displaced individuals. Let's hear about a woman named Iman, whose hope was restored through the opportunities she was given through these organizations. (Show photo.)

Share the Story:

Renewing Hope Through Employment

"Knock, knock, knock." Iman heard a knock on her front door. As she opened the door, she could hardly believe her eyes! The supplies for her new jewelry business had arrived! The five big boxes on her doorstep had tools and materials for making jewelry!

Iman's search for the right job began when she first moved to the United States. She had been a doctor in her home country of Iran, but she had to come to America with her four children for safety. Her education did not count in America, and so she could no longer be a doctor. What would she do? She worried and worried. Then she met Nell Green and found out about The Off Ramp organization.

Nell saw that Iman had a hobby of making jewelry, but she didn't have all the right materials, tools, or supplies to turn that hobby into a business. She also didn't know the rules for running a business and managing the money. So Nell helped her find a business teacher who could teach her how to get her new business started. Nell also introduced Iman to a jeweler, who taught her new ways to make jewelry.

The supplies she needed were expensive and Iman didn't have the money to buy them. So Nell helped her make a plan. First, Iman would make printed clay Christmas ornaments and sell them. With the money she made from the ornaments, she would have enough to buy the jewelry supplies.

Now that the supplies were here, Iman felt so happy. She asked Nell to pray and ask God to bless her business. Nell smiled and took Iman by the hand. Together they prayed, thanking God for God's goodness, provision, and faithfulness.

After the Story:

1. **Say:** Having a meaningful job helps to provide hope for refugees who are making their new home in the United States. The Greens help refugees find the hope of God's love.
2. **Pray:** Thank you, God, for the Greens and the ways they help people establish good jobs. Thank you for the ways they continue to help the Muslim and refugee community in Houston.



Learning Activity:

Take the First Step

1. Say: When we meet someone who is different than us, it can be hard to think of ways to be friends with them. Butch and Nell work to help Christians make friends in spite of differences. In this fun game, we will practice taking the first step to be friends.
2. This game is similar to Mother, May I? Each player is trying to move from the starting line to the finish line by completing a series of tasks. If the player forgets to ask permission to make the first move, he or she must return to the starting line.
3. When you give the direction, the child will ask, "May I take the first step?" Then the child will complete the action. Actions could include: give a welcoming handshake while hopping forward three times; give two high fives as you take two giant steps; smile at someone while taking four baby steps, etc.
4. Use this game to talk with your children about ways that they can offer friendship to children who are different than them.

Meet the Field Personnel:



Butch and Nell Green are CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas, where they distribute food baskets to refugees, connect churches with refugee families, and partner with Interfaith Ministries to meet the needs of newly-arrived refugees.