

## **Scriptural Passages:**

Leviticus 19:33

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. <sup>34</sup>The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Malachi 3:5

“So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.

## **Meditation:**

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, or Old Testament, God reminds God’s people that they were once foreigners in Egypt, enslaved to the Pharaoh, before being liberated by God’s work through Moses. That reminder is meant to say “don’t treat people poorly who are now in a situation that you were once in yourself.” In other words, treat people the way you would like to be treated!

Given that the United States is made up mostly of folks whose ancestors were not originally from this land, this admonition from God seems relevant to how we think about who belongs in our country today. While ancient Israel and the modern church are not the same as our modern nation states, the call to the church is clear that we should welcome all, regardless of what part of the world they were born in, and “love them as yourself” and don’t deprive them of justice.

**Video:** DACA

## **Discussion questions:**

1. If you are not 100% from Native ancestry, do you know the story/stories of how your ancestors ended up here, if you did not immigrate here yourself? Did they come here voluntarily? What legal and/or cultural barriers did your family face in coming here, if you know?
2. Do you know anyone who has immigrated to the US, and what that process was like for them? How does the presentation in the video line up with the experiences of those you know?
3. The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are very clear in their prescriptions about how to treat the foreigner. What are your thoughts about what that means for us in 21st C. USA today?

**Ideas for action:**

1. Get in touch with Just Neighbors (<https://www.justneighbors.org/get-involved/>) to see how you can get involved in your community.
2. Find your local immigration and refugee settlement organizations and see what kind of help they need- from furniture and clothing donations, to friendship and help navigating American institutions, there are always some practical ways of welcoming the “foreigner.”