

Welcoming the stranger

From Volunteers Exploring Vocation

Scripture reading

When a stranger dwells among you in your land, do not taunt him. The stranger who dwells with you shall be like a native among you, and you shall love him like yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt—I am the Lord, your God.

— *Leviticus 19:33-34*

Reflection

As Service Adventure participants in a new community, you have had a few days or weeks to explore a community different from your own. What kinds of diversity have you encountered and what kinds of “borders” or thresholds of difference have you crossed to develop relationships with people of diverse backgrounds?

These “borders” could be ethnic, age, theological, racial, socioeconomic, or many other ways diversity is expressed. How is your host community shaped by the cultural background of its residents?



Photo by Susan Nisly

Jessica Porr works at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Anchorage, Alaska.

Questions

- Have you ever experienced being welcomed by a stranger? What was this like?

- Have you ever been intentional about welcoming a stranger? What was this like?

- Why is it important to cross boundaries of difference and deepen our understanding of “the other?”

Prayer

from Celtic Treasure, J. Philip Newell

Made in your image,
Formed in your likeness,
We carry your life within us, O God.
In every person, in every race,
In every nation on earth, O God,
We look for your presence and long for your peace.
Amen.