CRAFT:

Paper Lighthouse

10

Atlantic Canada, where Timberlea Baptist Church welcomed Amira's family to live, houses the majority of lighthouses in all of Canada. A lighthouse is a tower that shines lights which guides boats, ships and passengers safely to shore.

Materials: One sheet of plain white paper per child; scissors, pencils, stencils, fake-tea lights (NO flame).

Instructions:

1. Fold the paper in half, then in half again along the same direction (so when unfolded, it stands as a rectangular prism).
2. Have children cut small 'windows' in each side (you can use stencil designs to help), but only a few on each side.
3. Flatten it out and have them write what "home" means to them – encourage them to talk & share ideas such as where they sleep, share family time, eat, where they feel safe, loved, cared for etc.
4. Refold and tape it into place so the paper structure stands up on its own.
5. Turn on a flameless tea light and place the structure over it. Let the kids enjoy their creation and share it with their family.
6. You can adapt the structure and make cones for a roof and add other elements as you wish.

PRAYER:

God is Always With Us

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Dear God, thank you for the opportunities we have to help and welcome refugees in Canada. Please bless churches that are helping refugees around the world. We know that through these actions, we are sharing God's love. Help those who are settling into a new life here to be able to adjust to life in Canada, and also please help those who are running from danger and war to find a safe place to live again. Amen.

FUNDRAISER:

Deeds for Dollars

Children all around the world help out their parents or community when they can. Consider exploring the needs of your community. Is there a retirement home or a flower bed out front that could use some help? Does the animal shelter need volunteers or help stuffing envelopes?

As a class, make a list of items children can help with that are age appropriate, in exchange for suggested donation amounts to give to help refugees. Send raised funds for refugees to CBM.

Source: www.punchbowl.com

SNACK:

Potato Chips

10

The average Canadian eats 71 kg of potatoes a year. That's a lot of potatoes! A fun way to eat potatoes, are of course... potato chips! It's a fun, easy and nutritious snack to prepare.

Ingredients: 2 potatoes, unpeeled (sweet and/or Idaho/Russet), 1 tbsp vegetable oil, sea/kosher salt to taste, vegetable oil spray.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Slice the potato into 'chips' using a knife or a mandolin, about 1/8 inch thick. Combine the potatoes, oil and salt in a bowl and coat the chips. Spray 2 cookies sheets with vegetable spray and make one layer of chips on the sheet - no overlapping. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until chips turn golden. Flip them over and continue cooking for 15 more minutes. Keep an eye on them and remove when crisp. Cool and serve.

Source: www.weelicious.com

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My Home Away from Home in Canada

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LEARNING OBJECTIVE	For children to learn about caring for the refugee & person in need
BIBLE APPLICATION	Matthew 25:35-36
KEY CONCEPT	God is always with us
MISSION ADVENTURE	Canada

BIBLE VERSE:

Matthew 25:35-36 | God is Always With Us

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INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is filled with stories that show how God wants us to care for the earth, other people, and ourselves. And he has a special heart for those in great need, such as refugees. God still takes special care of people like that today. We are all part of God's family, and together we are all children of God – that's why we have to look after each other. In these lessons, we will learn more about how we can respect and care for each other! … Read More (see *Introduction Sheet)*

BACKGROUND:

Canada

It's estimated that there are 60 million refugees around the world today. That's about twice the population of Canada and easily exceeds the number of refugees from WWII. Refugees are people who are displaced because of conflict in their home country, natural disasters, or who may be fleeing persecution or oppression.

Canada has played a part in aiding those who have been displaced by allowing them to relocate here. Timberlea Baptist Church is one of more than a hundred churches with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, and across Canada, that has sponsored a refugee family.

Timberlea Baptist Church welcomed a Syrian refugee family of seven this past New Year's Day (2016) with children ranging in age from 4 to 12. Associate Pastor Louise Knowles worked alongside the church committee and community members in preparation for their arrival.

This was the first time Timberlea Baptist attempted a venture like this. They waded through many questions and logistics to bring this family to Canada and give them a new start in life. They went through a genuine self-education process surrounding the major issues of Syrians, the refugee crisis and new government policies.

With only a congregation of about 60-70, they came together to raise all the necessary funds and involve the wider community, including other organizations and groups. From outfitting the kitchen supplies and food to putting together furniture and accessing translators, they made sure every detail was looked after for this family.

The family is deeply grateful for the church's loving response to their situation. They will need that continued support as they navigate a new culture, learn the language, integrate into school and find work. Because of the efforts of a community of believers, they now have new hope for a better future.

FUN FACTS:

- Canada is the second biggest country in the world, after Russia - measured by total area! It is also the most multi-cultural country in the world.
- Less than 500 years ago, the only people living in Canada were the Aboriginals. "Aboriginal" means the original inhabitants, the people who were here first. Today they collectively refer to themselves as the First Nations or First Peoples of Canada.
- Canada means 'village' or 'settlement' in Iroquois.
- Canada's national symbols are the Maple Leaf and Beaver.
- More than 32 million people live in Canada.
- About 6 million Canadians speak French.
- Hockey and lacrosse are Canada's national sports.
- Some foods we think of as being Canadian includes peameal back bacon, poutine and maple syrup.

Sources: www.kids.lovetoknow.com, www.canadiangeographic.ca, www.kids-world-travel-guide.com, http://firstpeoplesofcanada.com, www.hikebiketravel.com

MISSION ADVENTURE STORY:

My Home Away from Home in Canada

10

Hello or Marhaban, as we say in Arabic! My name is Amira* and I'm 12 years old. I have 4 younger brothers and sisters. My family used to live in Syria, until the war broke out in our country. There were bombings close to our house and it was scary. There was a curfew set for everyone at 6 p.m. I know some kids have curfews (which is a time their parents set for when they have to be home after being out with friends), but during war-time, a curfew is to keep everyone safe. After dark, it becomes too dangerous for people to go out. We couldn't even go to school anymore because the building was destroyed. My siblings and I were very afraid.

My parents made the difficult decision to leave Syria, and all that we had and knew, behind. We made it to Lebanon and managed to find a small basement apartment that was very crowded, and very, very cold in the wintertime. My dad tried to find work when he could, but it was not easy. Never in our lives did we think we would become refugees.

We lived day to day, just struggling to get by. It was not something my parents wanted for us. I miss my home, my friends and relatives. We had been living this way in Lebanon for two years when we heard about Canada. We were so hopeful to move there, but it still took another year and a half before we got the plane tickets to come here. But once we did, things moved very quickly.

We arrived in our new Canadian home on New Year's Day. At the airport, we were all surprised to see a large group of people from Timberlea Baptist Church waiting to welcome us. These people were all strangers to us, they didn't know us at all, but they have been very kind and generous! We were so unhappy for so long and often times we felt like second class citizens, but here, we feel like human-beings again and are treated well. It is nice to be able to go to bed at night and not be terrified of what might happen.

All my siblings who are old enough, go to school now. I'm so happy to be learning again, especially my new favourite subject – English! On weekends I help my parents with chores, like doing the dishes and laundry. I like playing basketball and the piano; someday I hope to be piano teacher. My favourite colours are pink and yellow because they are bright, and yellow reminds me of the warm sun. I like everything about Canada, especially the trees and the chance for my family to be healthy, safe and happy again.

*Name has been changed to protect family's privacy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is a refugee? Why did Amira and her family become refugees? *(Amira's family left because of the Syrian war and the bombings close to where they live)*. Share the other reasons people become refugees. (*natural disasters, political oppression, etc.)*
2. Did Amira's family ever think they would become refugees? How did her life change? *(No. This is something no one would expect nor want to be and is a difficult position to be in – not having a home, everything familiar being lost, can't go to school or see friends, and even feel rejected from the country that takes them in.)*
3. How did Timberlea Baptist Church help Amira's family? *(They sponsored the family to come to Canada – this means raising funds, helping them with basic needs like food, a new apartment, furniture, helping them get around town etc.)*
4. What is Amira happy about now that she lives in Canada? *(She and her family are safe, she and her siblings can go to school)*
5. How can we help refugees? *(Be their friend; as a church or group, raise money, donate practical items like clothes, and furniture and other needs.* Note to teachers: *Get in contact with your regional Canadian Baptist Refugee Coordinator for more information.)*

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY:

Amira and her family have travelled from Syria, to Lebanon, and finally to Canada, to their new home. *(Show her drawing)*. We've heard stories from children around the world about what home means to them. What's your understanding of home? *(Have children draw a picture of what 'home' means to them and explain it to the class. Encourage the class to share their drawings and their answers afterwards. Post their pictures up.)*

Optional Activity: Post a map of your community, mark where the church is and have each child locate and mark where their home is.