

SESSION 03

Jesus was an Immigrant

Instructor



STEPHEN BECK PhD

Stephen is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at a number of institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with twenty-five college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to fifteen congregations in 6 years.

Goals

Strangers and misplaced, but for a reason! These five sessions, brought to you by Dr. Stephen Beck, deal with what we may understand from people in the Bible that were considered strangers where they were. Dr. Beck introduces this theme in four topics: 'The role of the foreigner in the Bible', 'the Christian as a foreigner in this world', 'the Christian congregation in which we learn to accept and love the foreigner', and 'pastoral application of the theology of the stranger'.

Target group for this course: any kind of church planter, home group starter or any other person who looks to draw people from culturally diverse backgrounds who group together for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Sessions Overview

1. The theology of a stranger – Introduction
2. The theology of a stranger – Solomon's prayer
- 3. The theology of a stranger – Jesus was an immigrant**
4. The theology of a stranger – Christians as strangers in this world
5. The theology of a stranger – The example of the multicultural congregation

Session Summary

What is the Son of God doing on earth as the Son of Man?

Fill in the Blanks

1. What did Jesus had to leave behind when He came down to earth?

2. According to this video session, what are the challenges of an immigrant in a foreign land?

3. What are other challenges you can think of?

4. Dr. Beck concludes from the example of Jesus as an immigrant who offers us salvation in a hostile world, that we should respect the strangers in our midst. Reflect inwardly and write down some practical ideas of how to apply this yourself.

5. If you are a stranger yourself where you are, or feels like one in a particular situation, what are some of your deep psychological, emotional, and mental challenges you would like God to free you from so you can be a brighter light in the world? Ask Him to!
