



The Journey of a Refugee: Amira's Story

See the world through the eyes of Amira, a 16-year old refugee from Syria.

Over 50 million people worldwide are currently fleeing from their homes - more than at any other time since World War Two. Nearly 17 million of these have been forced to travel to a different country. Amira is one of these 17 million refugees. This session is a chance to hear Amira's story in her own words and make it personal. Image Credit: Stella Chetham

Contents

- [Link - How to use this resource](#)
- [Link - Chapter 1: One night the bombs were coming closer and closer](#) ⌚ 6mins
- [Link - Chapter 2: Reunion](#) ⌚ 8mins
- [Link - Chapter 3 Bible Study: Making a new home in the refugee camp](#) ⌚ 10mins
- [Link - Chapter 4: L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N.](#) ⌚ 15mins
- [Link - Chapter 5: News from home](#) ⌚ 8mins
- [Link - Chapter 6: It helps us to know that we are not alone](#) ⌚ 6mins
- [Bible study - What we do when we're afraid](#)
- [Link - Response: Pray](#) ⌚ 6mins
- [Link - Response: Do a fundraiser](#)
- [Link - Response: Ask your MP about housing refugees in your area](#) ⌚ 8mins

Total resource time: ⌚ 1hr, 7mins

How to use this resource

 Link

Each module in this resource tells a new chapter of Amira's story. Each chapter has an audio recording and an activity. Invite the group to lie back, shut their eyes and listen as the track is played and then do the activity together. You can read a full transcript of Amira's story by clicking the link below. Amira's story is read by Hannah Douglas.

<http://rhythms.org/article/smuggled-survivor-syrian-refugee-and-16-years-old/>

Chapter 1: One night the bombs were coming closer and closer

 Link  6mins

Group all of the young people into “families” (Groups of 3-6) and imagine that you are all fleeing from your homes. Ask each family to write a list of everything that they would bring with them to help them as they journey over rough terrain, cross the border and eventually live in a refugee camp.

When they have completed the task ask them to swap papers with another group and cross out items on the list leaving only 4 remaining. Open up a discussion about which items each group chose to bring.

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-1-one-night-the?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-1-one-night-the?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

Chapter 2: Reunion

 Link  8mins

What a moment! The family is reunited after completing the dangerous journey out of Syria to the refugee camp. Imagine that feeling as you play this reunion game.

Find a large space and give each family an animal sound, e.g. an elephant, a dog or, if you're feeling cheeky, a dolphin.

Blindfolded everyone, spin them around and spread them out around the room.

The aim of the game is for each family to find each other by making their call their start making its noise and find each other and reunite, like Amira and her family did at the refugee camp.

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-2-later-that?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-2-later-that?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

Chapter 3 Bible Study: Making a new home in the refugee camp

 Link  10mins

The life of a refugee is often difficult and very uncertain. Listen to the section of story below then write a letter to encourage Amira as she arrives in the camp and thinks about adjusting to life in a refugee camp. Write one letter per family and feedback to the group when you're finished.

Here are some verses that you may wish to include in the letter(s):

Isaiah 49:16 - 'Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands. The walls you're rebuilding are never out of my sight.'

Isaiah 41:13 - 'For I am the Lord your God, who takes hold of your right hand, and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you..'

Jeremiah 29:11 - 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.'

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-3-when-we?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-3-when-we?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

Chapter 4: L.I.F.E.G.O.E.S.O.N.

 Link  15mins

Noah and the Whale got it right. Life goes on. Take some flexible time to do the same things that Amira and other children in the camp - draw pictures of one another, sing songs acapella or discuss what you'd make clothes out of using only the materials in the room.

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-4-we-have-so?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-4-we-have-so?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

Chapter 5: News from home

 Link  8mins

For Amira, and millions of other refugees, receiving news from home is about finding out what is left of their old neighbourhoods and communities and about dreaming of going back one day. We can read the news and begin to connect with our brothers and sisters in other countries.

Ask the group to use their mobile phones now to find up to date news about Syria, either from the Rhythms.org website or from BBC news. If they do it on their own phone now, they are more likely to look again in the future. If not many of you have phones then printouts or today's newspaper will work just as well.

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-5-we-are-afraid?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-5-we-are-afraid?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

Chapter 6: It helps us to know that we are not alone

 Link  6mins

Discuss this last passage from Amira's journey and answer the questions "Could you flee from one country to another?" and "Would you be willing to come and live like us?"

Ask the group to think about what they would miss most if they had to flee their home. What would they learn to appreciate more?

[https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-6-it-helps-us-to?
in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story](https://soundcloud.com/tearfundyouth/amira-chapter-6-it-helps-us-to?in=tearfundyouth/sets/amiras-story)

What we do when we're afraid

 Bible study

Introduction:

The situation in Syria is very serious and millions of people are now in need of a new place to live. Britain and other wealth countries are not being very welcoming and only allowing very small numbers of refugees . Have we seen any thing similar in the Bible and what can we learn from it?

Passages:

- Exodus 1:8-14 [↗ Bible Gateway](#)

Questions:

1. What words would you use to describe the new King's reaction to the Jewish people?
2. Do you think he took the right actions?
3. Can you think of a time when you have reacted like this and hurt someone because you were afraid?
4. What does this passage tell us about refugees who want to come to the UK today?

Response: Pray

 Link  6mins

We've heard Amira's Story. Pray for everyone who has had to flee their homes because of this conflict, all of the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents. Use this prayer guide to help you:

<http://www.tearfund.org/~media/files/main%20site/prayer/syria/light%20for%20syria%20written%20prayers.pdf>

Response: Do a fundraiser

[Link](#)

Tearfund's partners are providing food, clothing, shelter, stoves to people who have fled to escape the fighting. The generosity and enthusiasm of people around the world is making this possible so why not put the fun in fundraiser and dream up an event or a challenge that will raise awareness and get people giving. Start by going to the fundraiser page on Rhythms.

<http://rhythms.org/action/do-a-fundraising-project-for-charity/>

Response: Ask your MP about housing refugees in your area

 Link  8mins

This one takes a little more work. How is Britain responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis? Write a letter to your local MP asking if any Syrian refugees are being housed in the local area and showing your support for any plans to house more in the future. You can find out who your local MP is using the link below.

Write the letter outside the session, read it as a group, sign it and send it. Get creative about how to show your MP how many young people that are involved - a signed photo, a piece of paper with handprints on it or even book an appointment at your MP's surgery. You never know, you might make a new friend.

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mps/>



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