

# Far from Home Placemat Activity

TYNDALEKIDS.COM



Sharing a meal is often a wonderful time to connect with your family and have meaningful conversations about a variety of topics, both big and small. What refugees are experiencing is one of the biggest topics in the world right now. Your family may have many questions about refugees. Create these placemats as a kid-friendly way to start a discussion and list ways to pray for refugees around the world.

## STEP 1:

Color the predesigned placemat or design your own placemats by coloring the shapes on the "Shapes for Designing Your Own Placemat" sheet and cutting them out. Once the shapes are cut out, glue the shapes onto paper that is big enough for a placemat. We recommend 11"x17" paper. If you design your own placemat, be sure to leave room for writing prayer lists.

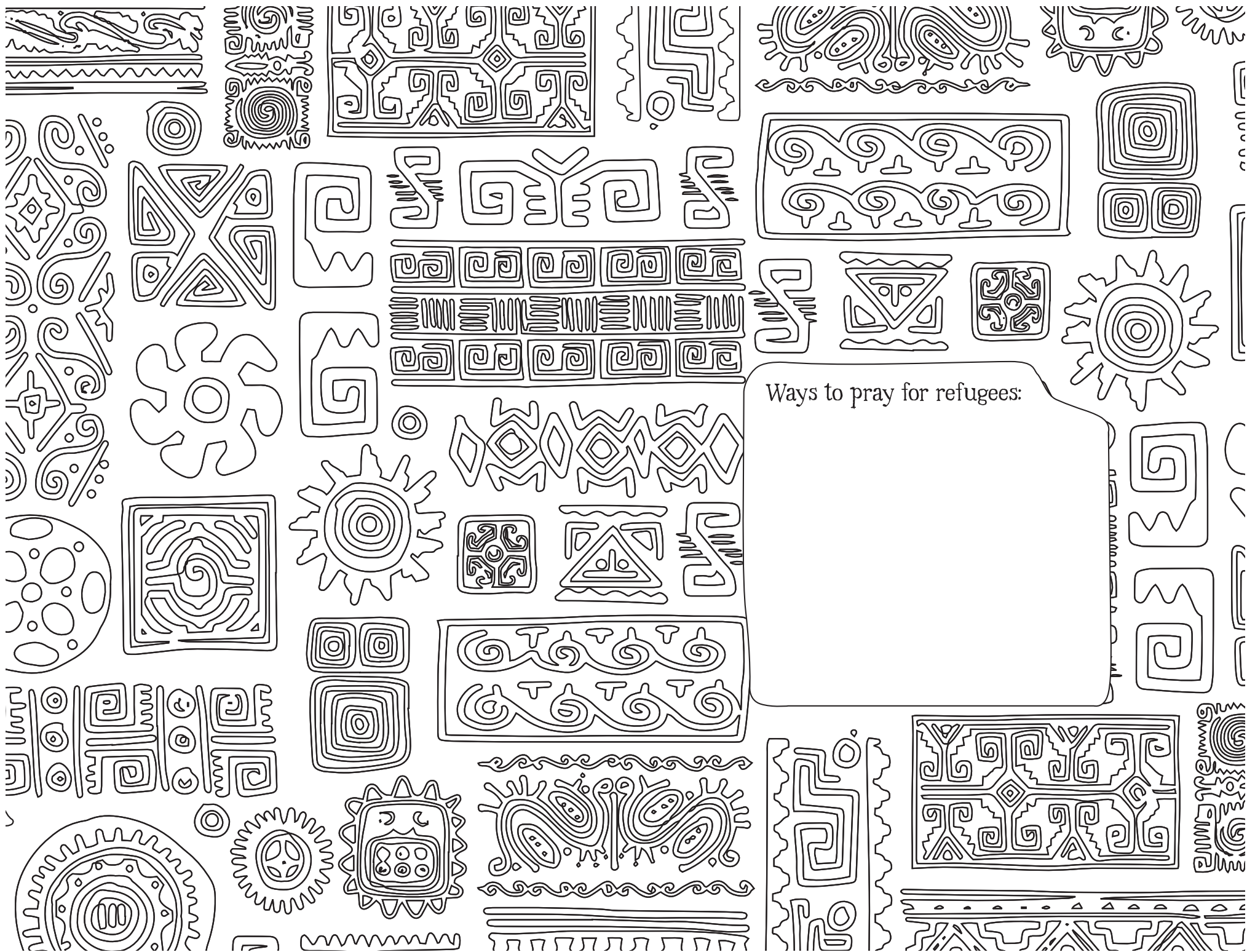


## STEP 2:

After the glue dries, laminate the placemats. If you don't have access to a laminator, use clear packing tape to cover the placemats.

## STEP 3:

At your next meal, start a conversation about refugees and have each person use dry erase markers to write ways to pray for refugees on his or her placemat.



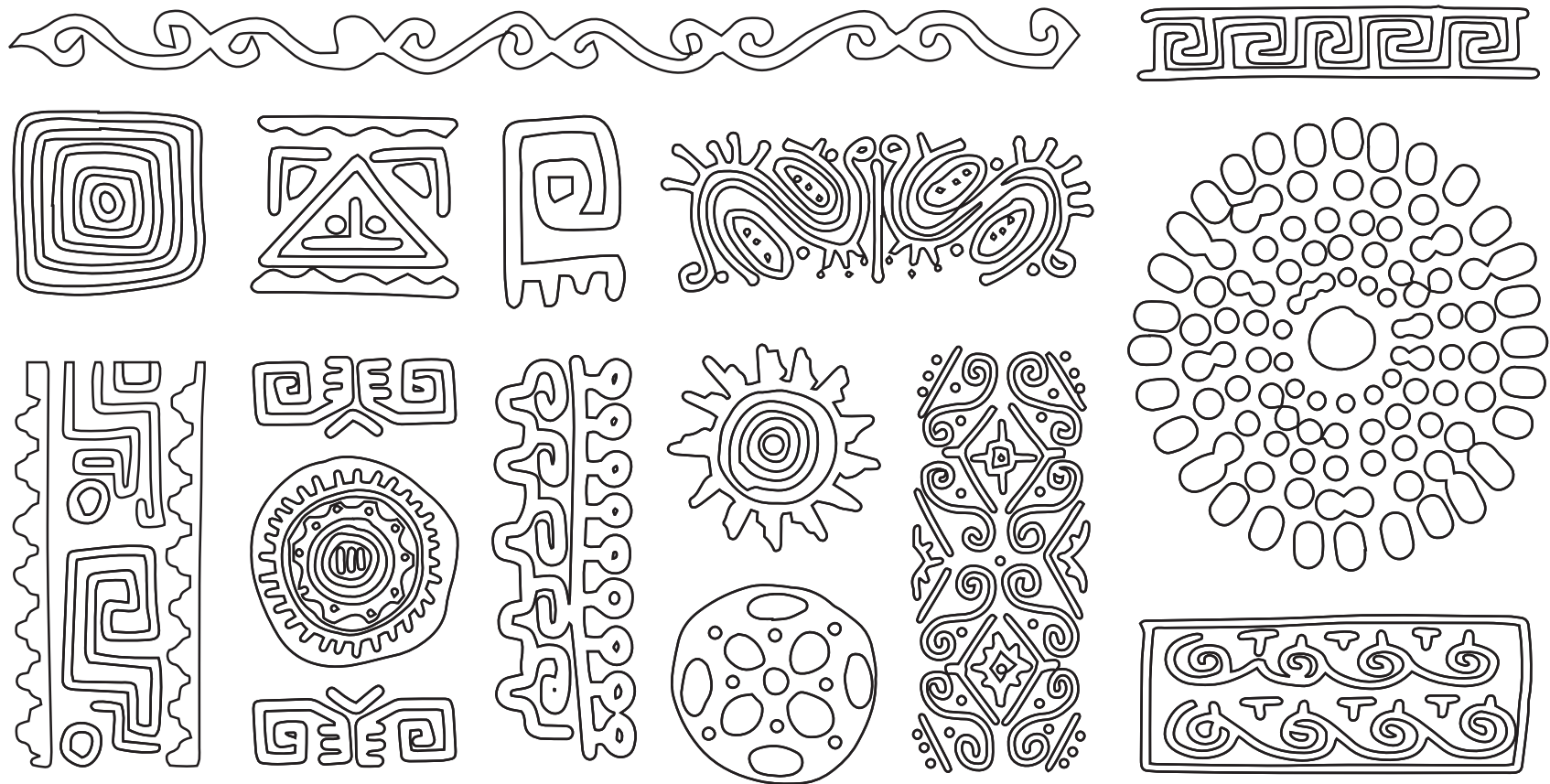
Ways to pray for refugees:



# Shapes for Designing Your Own Placemat



**HERE'S HOW:** Color these shapes. Cut them out with scissors. Glue them to blank paper (we recommend 11" x 17"). Leave room for writing prayer lists.



# Syrian Everyday Salad

THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL EVERYDAY SALAD IN SYRIA.  
IT CAN ALSO BE REFERRED TO AS "ARABIC SALAD" OR "SALAD."

*Tomato, cucumber, green pepper, and lemon all make  
for a crunchy and refreshing salad on those hot summer days.*

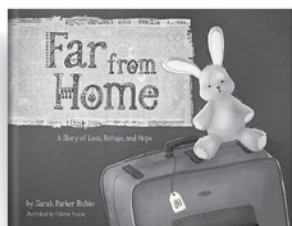
by Ghinwa Alameen

## Ingredients

- 1/2 pound tomatoes
- 1/2 pound cucumbers
- 1 green pepper
- 1/4 cup diced red or white onion
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 7-8 fresh mint leaves, chopped  
(or 1/2 teaspoon dried crushed mint)
- 1 lemon
- 3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Salt to taste

## Directions

1. Dice the tomatoes, green pepper, and cucumbers into small pieces. You might need to peel the cucumbers if the peel is tough and waxy (like American cucumbers).
2. Add all vegetables and herbs and mix well. You can make this ahead and keep refrigerated until serving.
3. Make the dressing by adding lemon, olive oil, and salt.
4. Add dressing to salad 10 min. before serving.



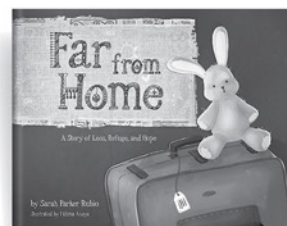
*Far from Home*, by Sarah Parker Rubio, is a simple but multilayered refugee story (drawing directly from headlines) that will help children understand the world around them and remind them that they are not alone.



# Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had to say goodbye to a person or place that you loved? *What did that feel like?*
2. What do you think it would feel like if your parents woke you up one day and told you that you had to move to a new city or country right away?
3. Do you like to wait? *Why do you think waiting is so hard?*
4. Why do you think the boy didn't want to hear the old lady's story at first? *Do you think he was eventually glad that he did?*
5. What do you think is the name of the boy in the old lady's story? What clues in the book's words or pictures helped you figure it out?
6. Who helps you when you feel sad or lonely or scared? *What do they do that helps?*
7. Have you ever tried to help someone who was feeling sad or lonely or scared? *What did you do?*
8. Imagine that the boy in the story came to your school as a new student. How do you think he would feel? *What could you do to help him feel welcome?*
9. Imagine the boy's family came to live in your town. What do you think would be the hardest things for them to get used to? *How could your family help them feel more at home?*
10. Talk about how your family could help a family who has had to move to a new country.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY!



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