

**Ep #1: Why Immigration Matters:
A Christian Perspective**



Full Episode Transcript

With Your Hosts

Tracie L. Morgan & Ashley Glimasinski

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Welcome to Hope in Action, where we offer clear insights, practical tools, and inspiring stories to navigate immigration with confidence, compassion, and faith. Each week, we break down the law, share real-world examples, and help you speak up, live out your values, and make a difference in your community.

Whether you're looking to understand immigration through a faith-driven lens, have courageous conversations with those who matter to you, or take small steps toward justice, you're in the right place. Let's dive in.

Ashley: On an ordinary Friday, Lionel Chavez and his brothers were detained by ICE. For their family and neighbors, the shock was real. And then hope rose. At St. Paul's on the Green Episcopal Church in Norwalk, Massachusetts, concerned community members brought faith to action. They lit candles, led a vigil, and raised their voices for justice. It isn't only a political issue. It's a deeply human one.

We want to reflect on how our Christian call to welcome the stranger, like welcoming Ruth or offering refuge to the oppressed, comes alive when we stand with our neighbor in the toughest of times.

Tracie: I think we certainly see that this is happening throughout the country every day, every month. And the folks in Massachusetts are not an anomaly. And I'm so proud of how our communities are standing up.

So, hi, my name is Tracie L. Morgan. I am an immigration attorney, founder of Hope Immigration in Atlanta, Georgia. I've been practicing for about sixteen years. We focus on family and

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humanitarian immigration law, which we'll talk about what that means in a later episode. But I grew up in Kansas, and I was blessed to have a family full of immigrants. My stepdad was from Mexico. One of my sisters was adopted from Russia. And then when I went to university, I met friends from all around the globe, and I was grateful to have friends with accents, which honestly, in Wichita, I didn't know many people with accents.

So, meeting all these new people allowed me to gain new perspectives, which just made my life so much richer, and I'm so grateful for it. I'm a member of a church plant in Smyrna, an EPC church called Waterstone, and just grateful to share my faith with everyone here today.

And with this conversation, the way it got started was people came to me after the inauguration saying, "Hey, we're seeing things about immigration, but I'm not quite sure what it all means." They weren't part of the immigration world. They maybe didn't know an immigrant, they didn't know the legal background, but something felt off with what they were seeing in the headlines. And they needed resources. And I'm happy to do that. And then Ashley and I started talking, and we were like, "Hey, I think there's a need for this beyond just, you know, one or two people here or there, but there's a true need for education within the Christian community about immigration law." And I'm so grateful, Ashley, to be able to have this conversation with you.

Ashley: I'm grateful to be with you too, Tracie. I remember when we had that first conversation just in passing, and we thought, what can we do together? And this idea came up, and I'm so grateful to finally see it coming to fruition here.

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So, my name is Ashley Glimasinski, and if you see my last name spelled out, you may not think it's going to sound like that. But that's a bit of my story and my relation to immigration. So, my husband is a Polish immigrant. We met in the US. We spent some time overseas together, and then we came back to the US to get married. So I sponsored him as a fiancé, and then we went through the green card process after we got married.

That was my first foray into immigration, and before that point, I thought immigration was easy. And I think Tracie's probably going to laugh at me, but I was so wrong when I realized that immigration was not easy. But as an American who was born here, I just didn't know what immigration was and how it was so complicated because I never had to experience it.

But I experienced that immigration process in the US, and I also had some time where I lived abroad, and I found out what it was like to be a stranger in those places. I lived overseas for about ten years in Japan, in Asia, in Poland, and I taught English in most of those places. And sometimes I was the only foreigner in my community, which was a really interesting experience for me to have.

But I was always welcomed in those places. People took care of me. They helped me learn how to ride the bus, or they took me to the doctor when I was sick. They interpreted for me when I didn't speak the language. And I was always taken care of.

So when I came back to the US after marrying a Polish immigrant, I also wanted to help immigrants. I wanted to be that welcoming face and welcome people the way that I had been welcomed and I

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had been accepted. So, I've worked with refugee ministries here in my city. I was the manager of a temporary housing ministry for two years. And I lived with refugees during that time, so it meant that I had a lot of really great food from all different countries. I had a lot of conversations. All the experience I had teaching English really came in handy.

And now I work with an organization called We Choose Welcome, where we educate Christian women about immigrants and refugees and then help them to take their next right step, whether that's volunteering locally, or advocating, or calling their senators. There are so many different ways that they can take their next step. So I'm excited to be here in this space and to bring some of my experience into this conversation as well.

Tracie: You know, Ashley, I totally forgot, and I shouldn't have, looking at your last name about our Poland connection. I also taught English in Poland once upon a time and quickly learned I am not cut out to be a teacher. So, kudos to you for doing that for so long. It's amazing and such hard work. But I love that God was weaving these threads together of our lives to, you know, bring us to this point ten, fifteen years later, and here we are connected, and it just, it gives me goosebumps. I love it.

So, you may be watching the news about immigration and ICE raids and feel really unsettled, like what you're seeing is cruel and maybe even unbiblical. You're not alone. From Ruth's journey to a new land to God's command to welcome the stranger, scripture reminds us that immigration is not just a political issue. It's a deeply human and spiritual one as well.

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On this podcast, we'll take a calm and compassionate look at immigration through a Christian lens, exploring the stories, struggles, and hopes of those who journey to find safety and home. We'll explore what it means to respond with compassion, courage, and Christ-centered conviction. Together, we'll seek to understand what it means to love our neighbor and to live out God's call to welcome the stranger.

Ashley: Many of you, like us, know an immigrant personally. Your lives have crossed with theirs, often for the better, and your life will never be the same again. When you read and hear the news headlines about immigrants, you feel a pain in your heart as you worry about the immigrants you personally know. For example, I worry about my husband often and the other immigrants and the refugees and the other asylum seekers that I know, many of them that I lived with. I always think, are they safe? Will they be next? How can I help them?

Now, we understand that not all of our listeners personally know an immigrant. For those listeners, you may be wondering, how does immigration affect me? Well, it impacts you because it impacts your community.

Tracie: Yeah, even if you don't personally know an immigrant, you likely interact with immigrants every single day: at school, church, work, and restaurants, or just walking around your neighborhood. Immigration affects the community you care about: how schools operate, the local economy, who sits next to you at work, and even how your church grows in the future.

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Ashley: So, Tracie, an example about how your church grows in the future, it makes me think about some churches that are in my city. And many of them are elderly congregations that have been around for a long time. But their congregations have dwindled enough that it's hard for them to sustain themselves and to maintain the upkeep on their buildings.

But these churches, I've seen them open their doors to other immigrant communities who are also Christian and looking for spaces to worship. That could be the Hispanic community, the Ukrainian, Burmese, Korean, and so many more. And I see these churches and how they could hold on to these buildings and say, "We spent the money for them. We've paid for them, they're ours." And they could hold them in this closed fist. But instead, they've opened their hands and said, "These buildings belong to God, and they belong to God's people." And whether that's us as the congregation or whether that's our brothers and sisters in Christ from other countries, we can give them up as such. We can give these buildings back to God. And I think that's just such a beautiful expression of the way that God welcomes others and welcomes us into his kingdom as well.

Tracie: I think about Buford Highway in Atlanta, which is known for its amazing ethnic food. I think every third sign might be in English. If it's that high, I'm not sure. But it's not just the food. It's the churches that are there and seeing church signs in languages I don't understand kind of gives me a, I think, a glimpse into what I think the kingdom of heaven will look like. So, it's a pretty awesome picture.

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Ashley: It really does, and it makes me think that we may not always see it just yet, but our daily lives are always woven together with immigrant lives, whether it's seeing the signs, literally, the signs on the highway, or it's just being about our daily lives. Our lives are intertwined with immigrants.

So, have you ever wondered why immigration debates feel so personal, even if you haven't been directly affected? Scripture tells us again and again that God cares for the foreigner, and we should too. Psalm 146:9 says, "The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow." When ICE actions harm families, children, and vulnerable people, it clashes with God's heart for protection and care.

When we see refugees and asylum seekers denied the opportunity to seek safety in our country, we remember the biblical stories where people left their homes for many different reasons, but all seeking safety. For example, the Israelites leaving Egypt, Ruth following Naomi, Joseph being sold into slavery, and David and Jacob fleeing angry family and friends.

Above all, as Christians, we are to one, love God, and two, love our neighbors as ourselves. Humans are made in the image of God, and we are to care for each other as such. When we see image bearers we know or don't know affected by laws that are unjust, we feel a disquiet, grief, or anger in our spirit. And I believe that is the Holy Spirit reminding us of our common, shared humanity and the call to care for one another.

Tracie: It is so hard, though. Our views of immigration have become tied to our identities. Our opinions about immigrants

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speaking to what we want for ourselves, our communities, and our nation. Conversations about this strike at our own hopes and our fears, and we are often intensely charged and deeply personal about these feelings. And I have to give a shout-out to We Choose Welcome for helping frame that so beautifully.

I think about another immigration lawyer friend. I was having a conversation with last month. We had a prayer session, and she opened up that at her church, which is a large church, she didn't feel comfortable talking to them about her husband's immigration proceedings. He's actually facing deportation proceedings, which is really stressful and awful. And yet, she didn't feel like she was in a place to have a political conversation about something so personal to her and her family.

And I could hear the heartbreak in her voice because church is supposed to be where you go to get strength and support and love, and she didn't feel like she was going to be able to get it there. And so it was heartbreaking for me as well to hear that, that she didn't feel comfortable talking about her family's struggle at church. So even if you're not talking about immigration, the silence also says things as well.

So, let's talk a little bit about how this impacts our values. And you may care deeply about family unity. I think we all do. Seeing scenes of families being torn apart at the border, they're just beyond heartbreaking. I wish I had a better word for it, but it just tears at your gut when you see that. And immigration enforcement often separates parents from their children, the kind of tearing apart that runs against our convictions about protecting families.

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We often view hospitality as a Christian duty. Welcoming immigrants is hospitality lived out in real time, not just in theory. And immigration brings people from all nations into your town, your church, your grocery store even. So when you think about going on missions, you really don't have to go any further than your doorstep.

Ashley: You know, Tracie, I studied intercultural studies at Fuller Seminary, and one of my professors used to say that the world is coming to us. That's really true, especially when I look at my city. Most of the populations that we feel called to serve overseas, we can find right here in the US. So when people say, "I'm going to go on a mission trip to Honduras," I often wonder, have you talked to the Hondurans in your community? Because they're right here. They're right among us. And that's just an example.

So why should a caring, justice-minded person care about the immigration system? That's a question you may be hearing or maybe even thinking. You may feel weary or frustrated with the political shouting match. Immigration matters to you not because of the partisan debate, but because of the Christian call to mercy, justice, and love.

You feel in your spirit that this debate has gone off course, and maybe it shouldn't be a debate in the first place. You're tired of arguing about why we should welcome immigrants, and instead feel your time would be better spent on how we can welcome immigrants. Matthew 25 offers the lens: "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." When the government's actions feel cruel, you can remember that Jesus gives us a different standard.

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Tracie: And thank goodness he does. I want to talk about an experience that I had with my mom a few years ago. Back in 2022, I had surgery, and my mom needed to come and take care of me for a few weeks, and she was very excited about it. She flew in from Little Rock, came into Atlanta, and in the midst of this, our firm was working on preparing over seventy Afghan asylum cases.

You might remember the fall of Kabul in the fall of 2021. A lot of families came to the United States but still needed to seek protection once they were here. And so, our little team of six couldn't handle that volume. So we had people who weren't attorneys come and help us. You don't have to be an attorney to hear someone's story or to collect biographical information, like, where did you live? Where did you work? How tall are you?

And my mom, she's amazing, but we get our news from different sources. And so we had different opinions on certain things, and she's always been supportive of my work, but kind of at a hands' distance. So when she came to help out, the first weekend she came, she's like, "I'm happy to help at the copier." And she was great. She was making those copies, passports, work cards, all that good stuff. But she was isolated back in the back, but she was happy.

But then the second weekend, she said, "Hey, I think I might like to talk to somebody and learn their story and just see what this is for myself." I was excited, and so I paired her with a gentleman who had been a part of the Afghan Air Force. He spoke excellent English, and she was back in an office for about two and a half hours talking with him, learning his story about being shot down, about the evacuation, about learning how his wife was still in

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Afghanistan and the fears he had for her, but also the hopes they had for their future.

And when she came out, I think she would tell you this too, but she was a changed woman. She was so excited about what she had learned. And she said, "Tracie, this isn't what I hear on the news. These aren't the sorts of people that I think are coming over, and he's genuine. Obviously, I believe him, and my heart breaks for him and his family and what they're going through." And then later that evening, she said, "Hey, Tracie, is it okay if I tell my church lady friends about what I did today?" And I was so excited to hear that. I said, "Of course you can." I'm like, "Don't say names or anything specific, but share what you learned. Share how it changed you." And it was an amazing experience for us both.

Ashley: That is such an incredible story, Tracie. I think that really highlights the difference that a personal connection really makes when you meet someone who you consider to be different from you, you consider to be other even. I think it's so important when we think about our immigrant friends and when we compare what we're hearing in the news versus what we see and we know from relationships in real life, that we remember there are people behind these stories and that there was always a human made in the image of God in front of us.

And you spoke about the Afghan evacuation in 2021, and that's exactly when I was working at the temporary housing for refugees, the ministry. And we were providing temporary housing for Afghans that were just arriving every day. There was just so many people who had fled, who were seeking safety. And so many of the volunteers that we had, church community members, people from

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our city, they wanted to help, and they didn't know how. And they said, "I can come make a bed. I can come clean the toilets," which was always necessary. But they didn't know any immigrants, and they said, "I want to help. I want to do something in this place." And so many of the relationships that were made then in that time, they're still friends today, four years later. I think because they had that personal connection, it brought the news to life. It brought the headlines that they were seeing and the stories that they were hearing to come face to face with a real person, and it made a difference in how they thought about this person, they thought about the situation that they had come from.

And so, I think these personal stories are so important that we can come alongside people and have that human connection. But when we're faced with someone who says, "Well, I saw this in the news, and this is what the news says," maybe you just know that's not the right information because you've lived it. You've experienced it.

So what do you do when you encounter that misinformation, especially from people who are close to you? It's hard to go beyond sound bites and snappy comments. The news is bite-sized. It's supposed to catch your attention. They want their ratings. They want you to keep watching. But to really explain something, it takes a lot longer than just that ten-second news clip or that even that one-minute reel. We like to get our bite-sized news, I know, through Instagram reels and things like that. But we don't really seem to have a great attention for paying attention longer than that. And I really think it takes longer than that ten-second or one-minute video to really understand the truth behind things.

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So when I'm faced with misinformation, after letting the initial gut reaction pass of, "How can you think like that?" it's often that shock. I try to ask, "Why do you think like that?" And that's a question I might directly pose to the person. Because research has shown that responding with facts to misinformation often gets us nowhere, and it usually leads the person to entrench these ideas even further. I know that's amazing because you think, "Well, I heard misinformation, so I should respond with truth and facts." But when you respond with facts to misinformation, the person actually then doubles down on that misinformation because instead of coming to them in a relationship, you've tried to correct them. And I know I don't like being corrected, so I would also respond that way.

So think about that when you're bringing the fact to another person who really believes something. There's research by an organization called Builders that has shown that rather than responding with facts, lead with stories and give the person a chance to explain why they think that way. Then you can share your own story of how this impacts you or the people you know, like your mom can now share the story of this Afghan man that she knows. So many of the volunteers I worked with can share the stories of the Afghan friends they still have four years later. They can share how it impacts your family, your friends, or the immigrant that you've met, someone you've heard about if you have a story like that to share.

It's also important to remember when you're engaging with misinformation that you don't always have to respond to every conversation that you hear. You're not responsible to start and engage in every conversation. It's just not the wisest choice every

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time to put your energy into that space. And especially if the person is on social media or they're not listening to your story or they're not really interested in honest conversation, feel free that you can walk away.

Tracie: Absolutely. Social media, that's a big one. I will say when I see misinformation by a close friend, I'll reach out privately and say, "Hey, can we talk about this maybe over coffee? I'd love to share some stories with you, share my experiences." But if it's just a comment on somebody else's feed about someone I don't know, I'm going to walk away from that most likely because it's about bandwidth, knowing what you have the energy for, knowing what you need to engage in. Because if the only outcome is you being fired up and angry, instead of helping to change someone's mind, that's not the outcome you want to fight for.

And so, even as an immigration lawyer for the last sixteen years, it can be intimidating to speak up. I know I don't know everything, and I certainly question myself. I wonder, oh, did that person read a news article that I didn't? Do they have better data than I have? But I have to stop and reflect. You know, I know my clients, I know their stories, I hear them day in and day out. And while I may not be able to give data points, I know the facts on the ground, and I have to be confident in that.

So when I introduce myself and people ask what I do for a living, I proudly say I'm an immigration lawyer. But I also quickly follow it up with, "We work with victims of domestic violence and human trafficking," because I figure who can be against that? Whereas if I said, "Oh yeah, I just defended someone in court who came across the border three times and has multiple arrests, but there are

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these other equities in his case," that may not be so great. Or when I gave a community prayer at our church a few weeks ago, I asked for us to pray for Christians who fled their home countries because they were persecuted and now they're in the United States seeking help and refuge.

So it's so important to know your audience. I took that as my jumping off point to share with fellow Christians about this one particular case, and hopefully that all landed on open ears. But certainly speaking up can be exhausting. Even if it's not an argument, I need to know when I have bandwidth and choose my conversations wisely. I even tell my husband, "If you get questions from your friends or family, I'm off duty from 5:00 p.m. on Friday until 9:00 a.m. on Monday. That can wait." But speak up when you're ready and you have the energy.

Ashley: You're really right, Tracie, that we have to think about when we're going to speak up and speak up when we're ready. As the wife of an immigrant, this is a personal matter to me. And I've had to manage my energy and ability to speak up carefully. I can't just jump into every conversation there is out there, like you mentioned those social media comments. Those are, those are real. But outside of personal conversations with friends and family, I sometimes worry that something I do or say publicly may affect my husband negatively. He's a green card holder. He's a legal permanent resident, so he is here legally. But with everything that's happening in this administration in 2025, I worry that maybe something could happen. And then I worry that I'm overthinking it and things can't really be that bad, can it?

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So when I think about whether to speak up or not about immigrants and my friends and family, I often go back to the story of Esther in the Bible and how she courageously stood up before an unjust king because as her uncle told her, it was for such a time as this that she was prepared to stand up before this king and speak for her people. And I know that I have the experience, I have the personal relationships as well, and that this is the time I was prepared for to speak up for my immigrant friends. And like Esther, I must also use my abilities and my experiences to speak up for my immigrant friends.

Tracie: Absolutely. I always think it's easier to speak up for others than it is for myself. I don't know if you feel that way, Ashley, but I definitely feel that. So it's a good reminder for me to speak up for those who may not be able to speak for themselves.

So, there are a lot of questions about immigration, and we're not going to be able to answer every single one. And the truth takes time to go through. Like you were saying earlier, Ashley, we don't have the luxury of sound bites when it comes to explaining the legal immigration system and why things are the way they are. But we're going to delve into some of these in future episodes. So just something to keep in mind.

And we wanted to talk a little bit about it today, just kind of plant those seeds, you know, about what you're hearing and then maybe some ways that you can start to comprehend and digest these questions and come up with your own answers. So, number one question, of course, why don't immigrants just come here legally? And I think people often ask this sincerely because people don't understand how limited the legal options are. And we'll talk about

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this in our next episode, talking about that framework that people have to work with.

People want to know if immigrants are taking away jobs or resources and worried that, you know, supporting immigrants might hurt American families. But I worry about the cost of farming going up with jobs lost, plants closing. I'm curious to see what my grocery bill is going to look like at the end of the year, how much higher that might be because we've lost so many farm workers.

We worry about crime or safety. There are sound bites, of course, about immigrants coming to the United States who are criminals, rapists, and just the worst of the worst. But I do have one data point on that, and that's about Fentanyl. That's often in the news. And 86% of people who are sentenced for trafficking are US citizens. And 90% of the seizures happen at official ports of entry. So these drugs aren't coming across the border undocumented, you know, with undocumented people. So, just again, the reality just doesn't fit the sound bite.

And then we wonder, is it unfair to people who follow the rules? And certainly, I understand that. People who came without papers might be cutting in line, so to speak, and it doesn't feel right to those who have abided by the rules. But the rules aren't great. There's a long wait for certain types of benefits, eighty years in some cases. And we need to level that playing field, and we need to make sure that we take care of both those who have those limited means to immigrate, albeit decades long wait, but also to help those who are already here and just need an opening so that they can legalize their status.

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Ashley: Tracie, I love what you said about it's a both/and. So often we think that it's either/or, but immigration really can be a both/and situation, especially when I hear the question when people say, "What does the Bible say about immigrants?" and they point out that, you know, we should follow the law, that immigrants should follow the law of the United States. And I think when we think about balancing both compassion and justice, that it's possible to have compassion and justice. We often look at Romans 13 and say, "The Bible says to follow the law, the law of the government, that the king was put into place by God." But we also remember the Bible says to care for your neighbor, to care for the stranger, to love the immigrant. That's mentioned so many times throughout the Bible.

So, one of the other things we'll talk about in a future episode is what does the Bible say about immigration? What does the Bible say about immigrants? Are those verses that talk about welcoming the stranger, do they apply to modern immigration as well? And also, how do I balance compassion with respecting the law? I want to welcome people, but doesn't the Bible also say we should obey the government? We'll talk about some of those things in future episodes.

I also hear, "Am I being too political if I care about this? I just want to follow Jesus. How do I do that without getting caught up in politics?" And I think that politics is a big word that we often use to mean government and laws and other things. But really it comes down to caring for your neighbor, to loving the person next to you, to being involved in your community and worrying about what these systems are and how they affect you and your neighbors

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and people you do or do not know, so that all can thrive and all can flourish and all can know that they are welcomed in this place.

Tracie: Absolutely. You might feel alone in your compassion for immigrants, especially if your friends or family speak with anger about the issue. But understanding immigration gives you confidence. It allows you to answer misinformation with truth, to root your response in scripture, and to show compassion without shame. You don't have to win arguments. You can simply live out the gospel in your conversations. And in doing so, you're a witness of Christ's love in a divided world. So when people see you combining calm knowledge with biblical compassion, it challenges the stereotype that caring about immigrants is a liberal or political stance. Instead, you embody a Christ-centered posture, truth spoken in love.

Ashley: So, we would like to invite you as our listeners to reflect personally. Have you ever faced a moment where you wanted to speak up but didn't know how? What was that like for you?

Tracie: So, we do want to leave this conversation with some helpful tips and suggestions for how to approach this in your day-to-day life. And so, if the situation presents itself, you can respond to some standard immigration critical issues with statements that bring the issue back to your values. And remember, you don't have to go beyond a sentence or two. You're not looking to win the argument. You're coming to the table with what you feel. It's feelings over facts at this point of the game. So, state what you need to and move along.

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So, if someone talks about families and immigration, well, perhaps a response is, "As Christians, we believe families should be together. Immigration enforcement often breaks them apart." If it's a question regarding faith, you can say, "Hospitality is at the core of our faith. It's one way we live out the gospel." Questions of law, and yes, I do get these a lot. And yes, laws certainly matter, but God's justice is higher. Like when Peter said, "We must obey God rather than men." There are unjust laws out there, and we do our best to work within the legal framework we have, but it's certainly far from ideal.

And then there are questions maybe of safety and criminality. And I think it's just helpful to point out that most immigrants come to the United States seeking safety for their children. It's the same thing that we all want. People aren't uprooting their lives for just a few extra dollars a day to take those unimaginably difficult journeys across Central and South America to get to the United States. And we'll talk about some of these conditions that people flee in a future episode. So stay tuned for that.

And finally, if you feel so brave, you can start the conversation. Maybe you're doing a Bible study or you're reading for the day took you to the book of Leviticus, where God tells us to love the foreigner as ourselves. And that really makes you think about how we treat immigrants today. But again, remember, it comes back to leading with stories and not facts.

Ashley: So, in addition to a weekly conversation tip, we also want to give you a small action to take. Like Tracie said, maybe you feel confident enough to start a conversation. That's an action step you can take. But another thing you can do personally is to think about

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your values and convictions and why you believe immigrants should be welcomed in your community. Can you articulate those if you are asked in a conversation? Like the things that Tracie mentioned before, family, faith, law, and safety, those are some things that you can frame your values around.

Think about which of these matter most to you and then write down your reasons or your answers maybe that you would give for faith, for security, for law. You can think about these things. And if you can't articulate them, practice saying them or writing them down, whatever is the easiest way for you to think through them. Before you start writing that list, though, I encourage you to spend some time in prayer and ask God to show you his heart for immigrants. And I guarantee you he has a lot to say about that.

Tracie: The one thing I would want you to remember from this episode is this: Immigration isn't just a headline or a political issue. It's about people who, like us, are created in God's image and are deeply loved by him. How we respond says something about the kind of disciples we want to be and the kind of witness we offer to the world.

Ashley: So as you think about how can understanding the stakes change the way you approach conversations or actions this week? Think about that when we understand what's at stake for immigrant families, it changes how we move through our week. It can shift the way we talk with relatives or friends who may see things differently, choosing to listen first, to respond with gentleness, and to remember that Jesus calls us to love our neighbor even when it's hard. It may look like prayer, encouragement, or simply standing against cruelty in our everyday

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conversations. These small and faithful acts really do matter. Don't be persuaded that they don't matter.

Tracie: Absolutely. Every little bit helps. And I will say as an immigration attorney, not even as an immigrant myself, seeing the support from the community is so amazing. It just gives affirmation that our immigrant friends are supposed to be here.

So, if today's episode stirred something in you, we would love for you to subscribe and follow. So we can keep walking through these questions together. As I mentioned, our next episode will focus on understanding the legal framework and why it's not just as easy as getting in line.

Ashley: We encourage you to share this episode with a friend who might need encouragement. And this week, we ask you to take one step, big or small, whether it's starting that conversation or just thinking about your values, that reflects your faith in action, whether that's praying for immigrants, speaking with kindness in a tense conversation, or just remembering that every person is made in the image of God. Let your values shape your response.

Tracie: Join us next time for Hope in Action.