

In recent years, millions of people have walked away from their countries and homes because of persecution and oppression. These refugees often endure hunger, homelessness, and other hardships as they travel, trying to find somewhere to go. Children make up over half of the more than 65 million refugees searching for safer and better places to live.

Leaders of the refugees often focus on getting help for their journeys and getting their people settled. Some leaders also are stepping up to be sure the children know their people's history. In one California Laotian community, adults teach the young people about Laos's traditional "story cloths." The cloths feature embroidered pictures or words that describe events from their country's past. The adults helped the kids make their own cloths. One cloth's scenes included a community being bombed, traveling to refugee camps, and arriving in the United States. It also included a panel that expressed hope for a new and brighter life.

## Think About It . . .

- Why are refugees trying to find new homes?
- Why is it important for refugees to follow their leaders *and* remember their past?

# THE BEAT

March 18, 2018

Lesson 3



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott

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## God's Story, My Life

Explain how the story of the refugees is similar to the story of the Israelites as they left Egypt and followed their leaders. Fasten a length of roll paper horizontally to a classroom wall, creating a class "story cloth." Use a marker to divide the paper into four sections. Ask the kids to name leaders who have helped them learn about God's plan for salvation. Talk about events that have been part of the kids' journeys with God. (Examples: family devotions, Sunday school, a VBS program) Draw a picture of one leader or event in each section of the story cloth. **SAY: We are going to look at events that took place during three eras of Bible history: the Exodus, Conquest, and Judges. What ties all these events and eras together is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

**What is something you can do this week to follow God and be part of His story for your life?**