A WORLD OF GOOD
A GLOBAL STRATEGY PODCAST

Zach Szmara

Season 4, Ep. 8: Immigration and the Church (2021)
www.chogglobal.org/S4E8 (55 min)

Key Takeaway

The church is uniquely positioned to welcome immigrants, build bridges across cultures, and reflect the inclusive love of Christ in diverse communities.

SUMMARY

In this episode, Zach Szmara shares his journey from aspiring missionary to pastor and founder of Immigrant Connection. After serving in Papua New Guinea and Mozambique, Zach and his wife returned to the United States during a difficult season of personal and family healing. Through relationships with immigrant families in Logansport, Indiana, Zach discovered that God had redirected his call from serving people overseas to serving immigrants living in his own community. The conversation explores hospitality, multicultural ministry, immigration, the church's responsibility toward newcomers, and the transformative power of relationships around the table.

Scripture passage: Leviticus 19:33-34

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Listen: 4:30-12:56.* Have you ever experienced God redirecting your plans or calling? How did you respond when God's path was different than you expected?
2. *Listen: 19:02-22:00.* Can you think of a time when someone's hospitality changed your life or perspective? How did Jesus use meals to connect with people? Why do meals and shared spaces often create opportunities for deeper relationships?
3. *Listen: 22:25-23:40.* What are the challenges and blessings of building a church that fully embraces different cultures, languages, and backgrounds?
4. *Listen: 30:50 - 34:05.* What does biblical hospitality require beyond simply living near people who are different from us? How does interacting with people from different cultures deepen our understanding of God's kingdom and the global church?

REFLECTION QUESTION

Zach's story was transformed by a simple invitation to a meal. Who in your community comes from a different culture, language, background, or life experience than your own? What is one intentional step you could take this month to extend hospitality and begin building a genuine relationship with them?