

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

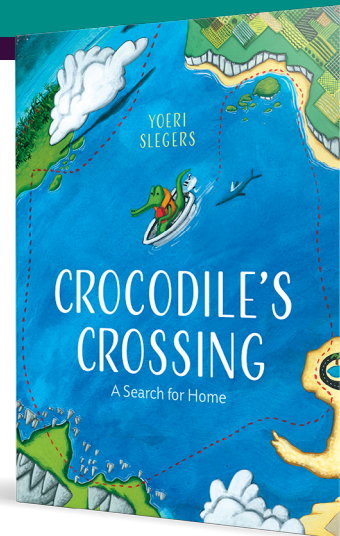
A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

Crocodile's Crossing: A Search for Home

By Yoeri Slegers

Leaving one's home under stressful circumstances, whether chosen or forced, is difficult to say the least. The first page of the book *Crocodile's Crossing* talks about Crocodile being tired, scared, and hopeful. These three words encapsulate this experience for many who must migrate. The conditions that caused the move and the actual travel are exhausting. The feelings surrounding the situation are most likely fraught with many unknowns, both for adults and children. Hope—maybe things will be better—is the driving force for many who migrate.

You, your family, or those you know may have experienced a story like Crocodile's. Crocodile's story may be your family's history. You may want to talk about those feelings of being tired, scared, and hopeful together, along with the possibility of how we might welcome newcomers. All of us can be those who welcome the stranger and offer compassion and hospitality.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- Have you ever had to leave your home and move to a new place? If so, how did that make you feel? What did you take with you that was important to you? What did you leave behind? If you have not had this experience, do you know others who have? What do you imagine it might be like?
- How has your experience with moving been different from or similar to Crocodile's story?
- How do you think the mice felt when they first met Crocodile? How about Crocodile's feelings when meeting the mice?
- What did the mice do to welcome Crocodile?
- What might you do to welcome a new person to your school, church, or neighborhood?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Look at a world map. Locate where you live now. Note other places you have lived and draw a timeline. Consider your family history, ancestry, and the migration stories that may have taken place. What might these different moves have involved? What feelings can you identify? Add notes, colors, and pictures, if possible, to your timeline.
- Act out the story, taking turns to be Crocodile and the mice. Improvise and add your own dialogue. Talk together about what you notice as you portray different parts.
- Do an internet image search for "feelings wheel for children." Identify feelings that Crocodile and the mice have throughout the story.
- *With Older Children:* talk about the feelings of loss and hope, the unknown and belonging, fearful and courageous, and insecurity and security. Share times each of you have experienced feelings like these.

PRAY

God of the whole world, we thank you for safe places to live, where we have food on our tables, where we have friends and neighbors nearby to help us. Help us to be welcoming people who care for those who are new to our community. In Jesus' name, who welcomed everyone, Amen.



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- *With Older Children:* The Bible has many stories and verses related to migration. Do an internet search for “Bible passages about immigration” and consider how the people of God are reminded how to treat people who are not of their tribe or community, often referred to as “stranger” or “foreigner,” today known as migrant or immigrant. As God’s people, we are called to show hospitality, compassion, and justice toward those displaced from their home. We are reminded of our shared humanity and the responsibility to welcome and protect the vulnerable and extend kindness to the marginalized. Read one or more of the following stories from a children’s story Bible, such as *Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible* ed. by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Weirheim (Flyaway Books, 2018). Consider what it means to be the immigrants and those who welcome others:
 - Abraham and Sarah: Genesis 12
 - Naomi and Ruth: Ruth 1 – 4
 - Joseph sold into slavery, Joseph’s family seeking food during a famine: Genesis 37:12 – 36, 42 and 45
 - Moses and the Israelites: Exodus 1:8 – 14, 6:1 – 11 (the story of the exodus from Egypt)
 - Joseph, Mary, and Jesus: Matthew 2:13 – 15
- Gather a church, school, or neighborhood group and wonder how you can be like the mice and offer welcome people who have immigrated to your community. Talk together about what needs they may have in terms of learning a new language, needing housing and household goods, finding a school and friends for their children, and receiving emotional support. Talk together about what you can provide to support these new community members.

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE FOR *CROCODILE’S CROSSING*

- Download the [Discussion and Activity Guide](#)

ADDITIONAL BOOKS ON COMMUNITY & GETTING INVOLVED

- [*Walking toward Peace: The True Story of a Brave Woman Called Peace Pilgrim*](#), by Kathleen Krull and Annie Bowler
- [*For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World*](#), by Michael W. Waters and Keisha Morris
- [*Liberty’s Civil Rights Road Trip*](#), by Michael W. Waters and Nicole Tadgell
- [*The Coat*](#), by Séverine Vidal and Louis Thomas
- [*Three Lines in a Circle: The Exciting Life of the Peace Symbol*](#), by Michael G. Long and Carlos Veléz

Guide written by Meg Elliot Rift and created in partnership with PC(USA)’s initiative “[Around the Table](#)” (pcusa.org/aroundthetable).



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