



High School or Junior High Exile Night: Sample Schedule

6:00–7:00 p.m. Drop Off & Doors Open

- ◆ Students stop at the registration table.
 - Waivers will need to be signed (provided by the church/organization).
 - Students can be playing a Middle Eastern game while waiting for the program to start (see Middle Eastern games handout).
 - Students can take a picture next to the Exile Night flag. If you have a volunteer who can take pictures, this will ensure that every child has a photo from the event.
 - Give Parent Cards to parents of the attending kids. These help parents understand what their children will experience and suggest questions they can ask their children afterward.
 - If students brought Family Med Pack items, they should drop off their supplies in a relevant pile.
 - Remind students that they can take only 3 things with them (many refugees fled with only the clothes on their back). For example, they could choose to bring a sleeping bag, a pillow and their phone. They can drop off their 3 items so they don't need to carry their sleeping bag with them (see Necessities Sheet handout).
 - *For large groups, we suggest having duct tape available to stick on sleeping bags and pillows. Students can write their last name on the tape, and you can sort students' belongings into piles by last name so they can easily find their belongings when it's time for them to get ready for bed.*

7:00–7:15 p.m. Welcome & Introduce the Night

- ◆ Provide direction for dinner.

7:15–8:00 p.m. Dinner

- ◆ See the Authentic Food document for recommended foods and portion sizes.
 - Please be prepared for food allergies.
 - You should tell parents beforehand whether the kids should eat prior to arrival.
 - Having them hungry during the evening is more realistic, but at the same time kids don't learn (or behave) well if they're thinking only about how hungry they are.
 - Our recommendation is to have them eat a small meal before arriving.

8:00–8:15 p.m. Session 1 (SACRIFICE)

- ◆ Show Sacrifice video (5 min.)
- ◆ Introduce the concept of Christian persecution, being an “N” Christian and what our persecuted family members in the Middle East are going through. Leader can share what it means to sacrifice as a follower of Christ. Share a story about sacrifice from the *I Am N* book. (example: Asia Bibi, pg. 31)



8:15–8:45 p.m. Worship or Special Concert

8:45–9:00 p.m. Session 2 (FORGIVENESS)

- ◆ Show Forgiveness video (5 min.)
- ◆ Leader can share a story on forgiveness from the *I Am N* book and share about how we are also called to forgive and love even our enemies. (example story: Habila Adamu, pg. 201)

9:00–9:30 p.m. Family Med Packs and Letter Writing

Family Med Packs

- ◆ Share the importance of Family Med Packs for Christian refugees. Many refugees don't even have a bandage or a toothbrush. Family Med Packs provide basic and needed hygiene and medical items for persecuted believers.
 - Students could be given a Family Med Pack in small groups when they exit.
 - Students can break into groups to fill the packs, pulling one item from each of the labeled bins (see Exile Night Setup document).
 - Ask them to pray as a group for the family that will receive the pack they prepared.
 - They will put the letters they wrote in each of the packs.

Letter Writing

- ◆ Share the importance of letters of encouragement for Christian refugees. Letters let refugees know they are not forgotten by the body of Christ and have brothers and sisters praying for them.
 - Students write letters to Christian refugee families. Letter templates are provided in the free downloads.
 - Any extra items that did not go in a Family Med Pack can be collected separately and sent to VOM.

9:30–9:50 p.m. Prayer

- ◆ Have students gather as a group to pray over the letters and Family Med Packs. You can have students or volunteers help lead the following prayer topics and read the associated Bible verses:
 - **Student 1:** Pray for the believers who will receive the Family Med Packs and letters (1 Cor. 12:20, 26).
 - **Student 2:** Pray for the comfort of Christians who have sacrificed everything or lost loved ones. Pray that they will know their sacrifice is not in vain (1 Cor. 1:3–5).
 - **Student 3:** Pray that persecuted believers will love and forgive their enemies and that persecutors (ISIS, terrorists, etc.) will come to know Christ (Matt. 5:44).
 - **Student 4:** Pray that persecuted believers will experience supernatural joy and peace, even during their difficulties (Acts 5:41).
 - **Student 5:** Pray for the protection of persecuted believers, and pray that they will remain faithful to Christ no matter the cost (1 Thess. 5:24).



- **Student 6:** Pray that God's kingdom will continue to advance, even in war-torn areas and closed nations, and that many more Muslims will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (Col. 4:3, Phil. 1:14).

9:50–10:05 p.m. Session 3 (JOY)

- ◆ Show Joy video (5 min.)
- ◆ Share one story on joy from the *I Am N* book. Speak briefly about joy amid persecution and how as believers we can experience joy even when things are difficult. (example story: Musa, pg. 127)

10:05–10:30 p.m. Discussion and Question Time

- ◆ Ask the students to break into small groups with a student leader to discuss what has been covered in the sessions. Give them time to process what they have heard and learned.
- ◆ Discussion questions are provided on a downloadable handout.

10:30–11:00 p.m. Session 4 (Final Large Group Session)

- ◆ Optional: 15 more minutes of worship to transition into final session.
- ◆ Optional: Show **Faithfulness** and or **Courage** and **Perseverance** video. (We recommend showing all six videos during Exile Night, but it is up to the leader's discretion.)
- ◆ This session should be less about the refugee situation and more about personal action. What does all of this mean for the students in their own lives? How do they live as an "N" Christian? Continue to highlight the themes of Sacrifice, Courage, Faithfulness, Forgiveness, Perseverance and Joy.
- ◆ You can refer to the session sample, available for download.

11:00–11:15 p.m. Directions for Rest of the Night/Morning

- ◆ Leader can explain to students that it is their turn to identify with Christian exiles by living like an exile for one night.
- ◆ Ask students to put on their wristband, marking them as an "N" Christian.
- ◆ Students are welcome to go to sleep at any time in their tent or sleeping area.
- ◆ Students may have an individual reflection time, journaling in the Exile Night booklet (see download).
- ◆ The students could play a Middle Eastern game (please refer to the Middle Eastern game handout).
- ◆ Hang out by bonfires or fire pits (if available).
- ◆ Students can read the stories in their booklet (available for download).

11:15 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Free Time

12:30–1:00 a.m. Prepare for Bed

- ◆ Depending on what you allowed kids to bring, this may take less time.
 - Some groups will be sleeping under the stars, with no tent or sleeping bag.



- Some groups will have tents but not sleeping bags.
- Some groups will be sleeping inside on sleeping bags.
- This is all at your discretion. See Exile Night Setup document.

1:30 a.m. Lights Out

- ◆ Some groups may want to stay up longer, and some kids may never fall asleep. Some groups may need to go to sleep prior to 1:30 a.m. This is completely at the discretion of the youth leader.

7:00 a.m. Wake Up/Pack Up

- ◆ This time will vary depending on what time you want parents to pick up their children.
- ◆ Have a closing prayer in the main area/tent. Encourage students with what's next:
 - Pray: It's the first thing our persecuted family asks us to do. You can tell students about VOM's "Pray Today" app, which will give them a new prayer request each day.
 - Stay informed: Follow VOM on social media @VOM_USA.
 - Encourage students to post about their Exile Night experience on social media using #exilenight and #iamn.
- ◆ Get a group picture of all the students and the Exile Night flag in your "camp."
- ◆ You could record your students challenging another church/student group to Experience Exile.
- ◆ Students can be given challenge cards to pass out to other churches or friends.
- ◆ If provided, students are given an *I Am N* T-shirt and Exile Night sticker for making it through the night.