



CARES

Lesson 1 – WELCOME

C.A.R.E.S. 101 Small Group Curriculum

LESSON 1 INTRODUCTION – Human Trafficking is Modern Day Slavery

This isn't going to be an easy semester. It will be a tense time talking about the injustice and perversion that is human trafficking, specifically sex trafficking of all races, all ages, all genders, all communities. The topic is awkward and violent and may seem far removed from our everyday problems. You may want to cover your ears and pretend it doesn't exist, just put on some music or TV and enjoy another slice of pizza. None of those things are inherently bad, but let's not allow our attractions to become our distractions from actually living out a Gospel message concerned with Godly justice.

Your participation in this small group is a testament to your resolve. No more turned heads. No more fingers in ears. No more pretending. This small group can be a catalyst for change. It can open your eyes to just how widespread the problem is. It's not a Third World problem that exists in some seedy underbelly of society. It exists in our First World communities as well.

And with your new awareness comes the responsibility for action. In the words of William Wilberforce, the great abolitionist of the 19th century: "You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know."¹

This small group will provide a guided process for you to become informed, passionate, and engaged in the fight against sex trafficking.

VISION FOR THIS SEMESTER

To eradicate sex trafficking around the world while helping local churches fight on the frontline of their city, community, and neighborhood.

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." (Psalm 82:3-4 NIV)

"Once we saw the problem firsthand, it became impossible to stand by and idly do nothing." Lee and Laura Domingue, founders Trafficking Hope.

PURPOSE OF THIS SMALL GROUP

- To have your eyes opened to the global, national, and local nature of sex trafficking
- To gain foundational knowledge of human trafficking to increase your awareness and education
- To be resourced with tools and approaches for battling human trafficking
- To identify areas where you are gifted to serve and next steps you can take in this journey
- To recognize the power of prayer as a weapon
- To be part of a community of believers in agreement about the injustice of sex trafficking and to have your heart opened to see the God of justice

THIS PURPOSE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY

- 1) Teaching, equipping, empowering local churches and non-profit organizations in five critical areas: Coalition, Awareness, Rescue, Education, and Services (the C.A.R.E.S. initiative).
- 2) Sharing this journey with others in groups to enhance understanding of human trafficking and encourage the practice of what is being learned together.
- 3) Empowering individuals to identify specific gifts, abilities, personality traits, and sphere of influence in order to focus their efforts through prayer and the C.A.R.E.S. initiative.

¹ Speech before The House of Commons May 12, 1789. Cited in Kay Marshall Strom, *Once Blind: The Life of John Newton* (Chicago: IVP, 2008) 255.

DEFINITIONS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To begin understanding what human trafficking is, here are brief definitions:

- 1) Forced Labor – forcing a person to work in captivity for little or no pay (includes child labor)
- 2) Bonded Labor/Debt Bondage – forcing a person to work for low wages to pay back an excessive amount of debt (possibly ancestral debt)
- 3) Domestic Servitude – forcing a person to work and live in the same place for little or no pay
- 4) Forced Child Labor – forcing a child to perform work that benefits someone else and does not allow the child to leave
- 5) Unlawful Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers – forcing a child to participate as an armed militant
- 6) Trafficking for tissue, cells and organs – the use of coercion, including the “abuse of a position of vulnerability” (economic disadvantage), for organ removal to sell
- 7) Commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism – traveling for the purpose of sexually exploiting a child
- 8) Sex Trafficking – the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act and induced by the use of force, fraud, or coercion against an adult (over 18)
- 9) Child Sex Trafficking – when a child (under 18) is recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, obtained, or maintained to perform a commercial sex act (proof of force, fraud, or coercion not necessary for legal prosecution in the U.S.)

**These definitions are a summary from several sources including the International Labor Organization, the U. S. State Department, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, Shared Hope International, Polaris Project, Interpol, ECPAT International, and Trafficking Hope. If a specific definition is used elsewhere for a specific purpose, the exact citation will be provided.*

Victims may be subjected to multiple types of trafficking or a trafficking situation may be intertwined with other criminal activity. For example, someone subjected to involuntary domestic servitude may also be a victim of sexual abuse, or a victim of sex trafficking may also be selling and/or using drugs.

REMEMBER

Prayer focus this week: that God will raise up an army of His righteous people who will join Him in seeking justice for the weak and defeating evil.

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalm 32:3-4 NIV)

Throughout this semester “... you will be invited into prayerful practices for daily life that will not only guide you into knowing what action God calls you to take in the face of injustice but will help you, like the person in Psalm 1, to lay down deeper roots of trust in the Lord that will sustain your justice passion through all manner of trials, distractions, struggles and the sheer need to persevere in the face of evil.”²

² Bethany H. Hoang, *Deepening the Soul for Justice* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012), Page 10.

CHALLENGE

- 1) Take the Slavery Footprint Survey at <http://slaveryfootprint.org/> and review your results. We will discuss your results next week. From the home page, be sure to click on the links in the lower right for "Our Story" and "Your Story" to see how slaves are used to produce much of what we eat, wear, and use today.
- 2) Watch:

-- Our Prayers Matter to God (Gary Haugen of International Justice Mission) (17:29)
<https://youtu.be/sNErcVAv0xA>
- 3) Read through the following verses, then select one that speaks to you about the battle against human trafficking and pray it out loud this week. Be ready to share which verse you chose and what God revealed to you through it.
 - Psalm 1:6
 - Psalm 10:14, 17-18
 - Psalm 22:24
 - Psalm 72:12-14
 - Psalm 103:6
 - Psalm 106:3
 - Psalm 112:10
 - Psalm 146:7-9
 - Psalm 147:3
 - Ecclesiastes 4:1
- 4) Micah 6:8 (ESV) says, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness (mercy), and to walk humbly with your God?"

Within the context of all of Chapter 6 and what God is saying to the children of Israel, what are the Israelites bringing Him and what is He actually asking for?

In Luke 4:17-19, what does Jesus say He was sent to do? How does His sacrifice give us a foundation "to do justice"?

- 5) Read Lesson 2

We'll spend this semester equipping, empowering, and resourcing you with tools to join the fight against the injustice of sex trafficking. Each session will look at a different aspect of sex trafficking, providing factual information as well as spiritual insight into this issue that touches millions of lives in many ways.

Through the next several weeks, we'll help you determine your most strategic and intentional opportunities based on personality, gifts and sphere of influence.

You are encouraged to educate yourself outside the group with the resources listed and other research.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for bringing me to this group so we can learn how to join You in the fight against the injustice of human trafficking. Open our hearts to what breaks Yours, and call us to protect the weak, the exploited, and the defenseless. Protect us from the attacks of the evil one as we bring light into his darkest places. We pray for release from bondage, physical and spiritual, for those that are enslaved. We pray for healing for those that have been rescued. We ask forgiveness and mercy for those that prey on the weak, and ask that You open their eyes to the truth. Amen.