

Freedom 58 Human Trafficking Focus Group

A 6-Week Experience to Help End Human Trafficking

What We Hope to Accomplish:

- **Motivate students to join the fight** against trafficking with compelling videos, information, and action steps.
- **Surface new students** to be involved in Cru.
- **See students come to Christ** by sharing your faith story and how your faith in Christ motivates you to help end trafficking.

How We'll Do This: Start a 6-week human trafficking focus group with friends. Invite believers or non-believers – it's designed for use with either group!

Getting started:

- Pray for wisdom, guidance, and confidence to initiate with friends.
- **Find a friend** to help you facilitate the focus group (if possible).
- We all have several relational networks. Identify which of yours would be most conducive for starting a human trafficking focus group.
- *Decide on a 1-hour meeting time you know will work for most in the group.*
- Use personal invitation and social media to invite at least 20 people to join you for this experience at the time and place you have chosen.
- Get familiar with the materials, and facilitate the group sessions.
- Print the handouts for each session.

General Format for the Focus Group Sessions:

10-15 minutes: Talk, connect, reconnect week by week

15-30 minutes: View video (first 4 weeks)

15-20 minutes: Discuss the video; summarize the facts; give out handouts

What about prayer and investigating what the Bible says about trafficking?

If the people in your focus group are believers, you can pray together and encourage them to investigate Scripture passages provided in handouts. But there are many concerned people who don't know Christ or are not walking with Him right now, and we want for them to feel at home in this group.

So, the group will stay focused on the issue of human trafficking, investigating stories of trafficking survivors and trafficking facts. The last week, you will share your faith story and how your faith in Christ connects to your passion for justice. Our prayer is that students will come to Christ or start walking closely with Him, and you can involve them in a growth group next semester. And we'll pray that many of them will get involved with Cru!

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 1

Introducing the Group and the Issue (10-15 minutes)

Get to know each other, and give a brief intro to the topic of human trafficking.

To introduce the content, you can make a brief comment like, “I first heard about human trafficking when... I felt compelled to find out more and join the fight against trafficking. I want to share with others re: this exploding issue, and that’s why I started this group. Most weeks, we’ll look at a 20-30 minute video, discuss it, and figure out ways we can help. We’ll start with an informative video. (If you have one, use a video showing human trafficking happening locally. If not, use the video below from Aubrun about trafficking along I-20, done by The Wellhouse in Birmingham.)

View video (20 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAUCXIUcQvl&feature=youtu.be>

Discuss one or more of the following questions (10-15 minutes):

- What were you thinking and feeling during the video?
- What stood out to you the most?
- Do you know someone else you would like to invite to find out more re: trafficking?
Please invite them to join us next week.

Close the focus group session (5 minutes).

- If your group is made up of believers, pray together for victims of injustice.
- Let everyone know that you’ll be meeting in the same place and at the same time next week.
- Let them know they’re free to bring others to the next meeting
- Give them the “Week 1 Handout” for further investigation of the issues

Print the next 2 pages to hand out at the end of the session.

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 1 Handout

Biblical Perspective – Read Psalm 10

- How is the world of the writer of Psalm 10 similar to our world?
- What are some of the ways the writer struggles with oppression?
- Where does he find hope? (vv. 14-18)

For further investigation:

International Justice Mission <http://www.ijm.org/>

“What is Human Trafficking?” (attached)

Book: *Good News About Injustice* by Gary Haugen

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking

What is it? Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world and the second largest behind the drug trade.¹ Commonly referred to as the modern day slavery trade, the victims of human trafficking are exploited for a myriad of purposes, including forced labor, prostitution, and pornography.

Who is at risk? Victims are often poor, uneducated, and from rural areas. These characteristics make them extremely susceptible to human traffickers who offer promises of better jobs and improved living conditions.

How are victims controlled? Victims are subjected to violence and brutality from their captors, who force them sell their bodies and abilities for the benefit of their pimps and traffickers. They are often denied medical care and experience extreme forms of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

Labor Trafficking

What is it? A subset of human trafficking, labor trafficking represents forced servitude, a type of slavery in which victims are at the beck and call of their employer for years on end.

What do victims do? They toil on farms and in sweatshops for little or no pay with only the slightest chance of escape. In the US, victims often also work as domestic servants.

Are children affected? Yes. Children subjected to labor trafficking are forced to work from very young ages. They are required to labor for long hours without schooling or proper care.

Sex Trafficking

What is it? Sex trafficking is a subset of human trafficking in which victims are forced into sex slavery and prostitution. They are generally promised a better life, but enslaved upon arrival and forced to perform myriad sexual acts.

Who are the victims? Victims can come from outside the US or from your own town. They are often underage and are physically and emotionally abused by their controllers. The two primary ways in which traffickers control their victims are either manipulating them with violence or with drugs

Why is it a problem in the US? In the United States, law enforcement and legislation often classify sex workers as criminals, rather than victims.

Consequently it is very difficult for victims to report their situation, making the fight to eradicate sex trafficking increasingly difficult.

Domestic Vs. International

Domestic trafficking occurs within the country and involves residents of the United States. Traffickers use fraud, coercion, and violence to obtain and control their victims and force them into a various forms of slavery. In the US, human trafficking incidents are most often classified as sex trafficking. International trafficking refers to individuals that are trafficked across international borders, either coming into the United States or being transported abroad. Aliens are frequently smuggled into the US and forced into slavery in various cities across the country.

¹ <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/index.html>source:

<http://www.innocenceatlanta.org>

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 2 (Focus: Child Trafficking)

Greet; get to know each other; informal conversation (10 minutes)

Introduce “The Candy Shop” video with comments about the impact of human trafficking on women and children. For example: “*The Candy Shop* is a very creative parable of the devastating impact of sex trafficking on women, especially minors, and on the people who prey on them (johns, pimps, madams, and traffickers). After we watch it, we’ll talk about some of the insights we gain.”

View video (30 minutes): <http://vimeo.com/20833462>

Discuss one or more of the following: (15 minutes)

- How would you describe some of the damage done to sexually exploited children?
- What kind of damage are johns, pimps, and traffickers doing to themselves?
- How does this motivate you to do something about trafficking?

Do Something – Two small steps to help end trafficking:

1. Email your local city/college newspaper and ask them to write an article on human trafficking this semester. People will not act to *so/ve* a problem until they are made aware that there *is* a problem. We can help raise awareness by asking our newspaper to do an article on trafficking.
2. Go to <http://slaveryfootprint.org/> and discover your slavery footprint.

Close the meeting (5 minutes):

- If your group is made up of believers, pray for child victims of trafficking
- Reminder: meeting in the same place at same time next week
- Let them know they are free to bring others
- Give them the Week 2 Handout for further investigation and reflection

Print the next 2 pages to hand out at the end of the session.

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 2 Handout

Biblical Perspective: Psalm 146

- What are some ways God acts on behalf of the poor and oppressed?
- What can you do this week to act on behalf of the poor and oppressed?

For Further Reading:

<http://www.thea21campaign.org/> - focused on women

<http://www.unearthedpictures.com/> - focused on men

“Glossary of Trafficking Terms” (attached)

Glossary of Trafficking Terms

Trafficker/Pimp: Anyone who receives money or something of value for the sexual exploitation of another person.

Facilitator: Any business or person allowing a trafficker/pimp to carry out exploitation. These facilitators taxi drivers, hotel owners, newspapers where girls are advertised work in direct and indirect partnership with pimps and enable the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Buyer : Anyone who pays for or trades something of value for sex. This can be a family member, teacher, baseball coach, and member of the clergy anyone, male or female.

Survival Sex: A situation involving a homeless youth who trades a sex act with an adult in exchange for basic needs such as shelter, food, etc. Knowing that homeless youth are unable to work legally and provide for themselves, sexual predators commonly target them, taking advantage of their vulnerability. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines a “victim” of sex trafficking as any child under the age of 18 and involved in a commercial sex act where money or something of value is given to or received by any person. Accordingly, “survival sex” actually qualifies as domestic minor sex trafficking.

Quota: A set amount of money that a trafficked girl must make each night before she can come “home.” Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2,000. If the child returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten or sent back out.

Automatic: The victim’s routine when her pimp is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those he is prostituting. Victims are expected to be “on automatic,” and they generally comply either out of fear of punishment or because they have been psychologically manipulated into a sense of loyalty or love. All money generated “on automatic” is turned over to the pimp when he returns.

Bottom Bitch: One girl, among several controlled by a single pimp, appointed by him to supervise the others, report rule violations, and sometimes even help inflict punishment on them.

Brothel, Bordello, Cathouse, Whorehouse: A large apartment or a house where sex is sold; in some cases, a facility specifically designed for selling sex on the premises. Such a site often features extreme security measures intended to prevent attacks by other criminals seeking the large amount of cash and drugs kept there and to keep the women and children in. The facilities often are guarded (and open) 24 hours a day, but some have closing times in which they victims are locked in from the outside.

Caught a Case: A pimp or prostituted person has been arrested and charged with a crime.

Choosing Up: The process by which a different pimp takes “ownership” of a victim. Choosing up actually occurs simply by making eye contact with another pimp (which is why eye contact with other pimps is strictly prohibited). If the original pimp wants the victim back, he must pay a fee to the new pimp. It’s the victim, however, who is then required to “work” to pay restitution to her original pimp. And usually the debt is increased as a penalty for the disrespect of the original pimp that “choosing up” represents.

For more, go to <http://sharedhope.org/learn/traffickingterms/>

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 3 (Focus: What Men Can Do to End Sex Trafficking)

Reconnect with informal conversation; **cultivate relationships** and community with a “get to know you” question or game. (10-15 minutes)

View VDO “Demand” by Shared Hope International
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PUxpSVPUDs#t=12>

Discuss one or more of the following:

- What were you thinking and feeling as you watched the video?
- How would you describe the connections between demand for pornography, commercial sex, and damaging the lives of women and children?
- Who are some of the men you want to show this video or give “What Men Can Do to Help End Human Trafficking?”

Do Something:

Read “Ten Things Men Can Do To Stop Human Trafficking,” and share it with at least 2-3 men who are close to you.

Share the video “Demand” with men you’re close to (dad, brothers, etc.)

Close the meeting:

- If your group is made up of believers, pray for men to stop viewing pornography and buying sex.
- See you same time, same place next week
- Not too late to bring a friend
- Give them the handout

Print the next page to hand out at the end of the session.

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 3 Handout

Biblical Perspective: Isaiah 58

- What does this chapter reveal about God's heart for the oppressed?
- What kind of religious practices are pleasing to God?
- What are some of the ways God blesses His people when they care for the poor and oppressed?

For Further Investigation:

Article: "Ten Things Men Can Do To Stop Human Trafficking"

www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/renaissancemaletenthings4fin.pdf

Book, Audio, DVD Series – "Every Man's Battle"

<http://www.amazon.com/Every-Mans-Battle-Winning-Temptation>

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 4 (Focus: Ending Slavery in Our Lifetime)

Cultivate relationships and community with a “getting to know each other” question or a game. (10-15 minutes)

Introduce “The End of Slavery” video with brief comments about your own involvement with IJM. Focus on the belief that we can see an end to slavery in our lifetime.

View Video (30 minutes): “The End of Slavery”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oiaJzrFMXA>

Discuss (15 minutes):

- What were you thinking and feeling as you watched “The End of Slavery?”
- What are some of the crucial elements in the work of freeing enslaved people?
- What are some of the reasons to believe that slavery can actually be abolished in our lifetime?

Do Something:

Go to <http://www.ijm.org/>, click the “Get Involved” tab, and sign up to lend some form of support to IJM’s work around the world.

Get involved in Freedom 58, a justice ministry within Cru, on your campus.

Discuss campus events, justice centered Bible studies, speakers, and possible other human trafficking events/groups that are happening on campus or in your city.

Close the meeting:

- If your group is made up of believers, pray for the end of human trafficking and slavery in our lifetime.
- See you same time, same place next week
- Not too late to bring a friend
- Give them the handouts

Print the next 2 pages to hand out at the end of the session.

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 4 Handout

Biblical Perspective: Revelation 21

- What will the world be like when Jesus returns to reign on the earth?
- How will God judge people who oppress others? (v. 8)
- How will life change for the poor and oppressed who know the Lord? (v. 4)

For Further Investigation:

“Action Steps to Help End Human Trafficking” (attached)

Book: *Generous Justice*, Tim Keller

Action Steps to Help End Human Trafficking

- 1. JOIN THE FIGHT IN YOUR LOCAL AREA:** Discuss when Cru meets to talk and study justice. Become involved in the IJM chapter on campus, if there is one, to discuss modern day slavery, the ongoing fight, current ways to be involved and to pray for God's presence in ending global trafficking. Write letters to local congressmen asking them to place fighting human trafficking on their political agenda.
- 2. SPREAD THE WORD:** Learn the facts about what's happening in the world of modern slavery. When you have knowledge about the subject, you're more likely to share with those around you. Memorize some of the statistics about human trafficking and tell your friends. Get the word out by using social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) or posting info on your personal blog page.
- 3. USE YOUR TALENT:** Write a blog about why we should fight human trafficking; paint a picture and display it publicly; use a sports event to raise awareness; write a song or talk about human trafficking at a concert; create a short film and post it on You Tube. Use what you do best to make a difference.
- 4. INVEST IN FREEDOM:** Give to ministries that are strategic and effective in the battle against trafficking. Donations are used to fight human trafficking through legal fees, healthcare and housing costs for rescued victims, legislative efforts, education campaigns, and more. Everyday changes can make huge impacts in bringing an end to slavery. Small change in spending habits can free up money for victims. A small contribution can help bring lasting change for a survivor. Make a one-time contribution or become a monthly partner with one of the many organizations fighting human trafficking.
- 5. SUPPORT SURVIVORS & BUY FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS:** Buy products made by survivors of human trafficking. Jewelry can be bought from www.nightlightinternational.com. Find out how you can support fair trade and help reduce the demand for products made by slaves. Visit www.fairtrade.net for more details.
- 6. USE YOUR BIRTHDAY TO RAISE MONEY & AWARENESS:** Instead of gifts, request that friends make donations in your name for your favorite anti-trafficking organization.
- 7. EDUCATE YOURSELF & STAYCURRENT:** Human trafficking is in the news and making headlines every day! Stay up to date with the latest news articles about human trafficking and research information about human trafficking so you know the facts. Sign up for anti-trafficking organizations e-newsletters and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.
- 8. WRITE A LETTER & DONATE SUPPLIES:** Grab your stationary and pull out a pen! The simple act of writing to a survivor in one of the homes sponsored by The A21 Campaign, The Wellhouse in Birmingham, or Wellspring Atlanta, is an incredible encouragement to survivors along their journey. But don't be surprised if it has an impact on you too! These aftercare facilities rely heavily on donated items and usually post their needs on their website.
- 9. HELP VICTIMS ESCAPE:** Know the local hotline number for your area so you can give it to women you meet. Also leave the number in public places around your city.
- 10. PRAY:** Never underestimate the power of prayer! Commit to praying about abolishing this injustice and consider starting a prayer group with others who share your heart to see human trafficking eradicated.

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 5

Your Unique Contribution to Help End Human Trafficking

Facilitators: This week, you will lead your group through a simple and fun gifts assessment, to help them identify their unique contribution to help end trafficking and slavery. People love finding out more about themselves! The exercise will also bring your group closer together.

You will need to copy pages 3-7 of “Finding Your Shape” at <http://smallgroups.timberlinechurch.org/uploads/SHAPE%20Hardcopy.pdf> for each of the members of your group before the session, in order for them to complete the assessment during the group session.

Greet; reconnect; informal conversation (10 minutes)

Introduce “SHAPE” and hand out the questions for them go through. Tell them that they’ll get the best results by working quickly – not “over-thinking” their responses – and that you’ll give them just 20 minutes to do the questions.

Work through the SHAPE questions: (30 minutes)

- Give them 20 minutes to work through the assessment questions
- Guide them to fill out the answer key (page 7)

Discuss: (15 minutes)

- What did you learn about yourself through this exercise?
- What ideas come to mind re: your unique contribution to ending human trafficking and slavery?

Do Something:

Check out one of the websites on the attached list of “Human Trafficking Resources,” and do at least one thing that fits your gifts and abilities.

Close the meeting:

- If your group is made up of believers, pray for each other.
- Tell them you’ll be meeting just one more time – same time/place next week

Print the next page to hand out at the end of the session.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

International Justice Mission

www.ijm.org

Wellspring Atlanta

www.wellspringliving.org

Polaris Project

www.polarisproject.org

Freedom 58

freedom58project.com

Human Trafficking

www.humantrafficking.org

The Candy Shop

<http://vimeo.com/20833462>

Slavery Footprint

www.slaveryfootprint.org

How to Stop the Candy Shop

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbMib1yh9rk>

The End It Movement

www.enditmovement.com

Streetlight USA

www.streetlightusa.org

Not for Sale

www.notforsalecampaign.org

The CNN Freedom Project

<http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com>

Free the Slaves

www.freetheslaves.net

Street Grace Atlanta

www.streetgrace.org

A21 Campaign

www.thea21campaign.org/

Traffick 911

<http://www.traffick911.com>

Nightlight

www.nightlightinternational.com/bangkok

www.nightlightinternational.com/losangeles

www.nightlightinternational.com/atlanta

www.nightlightinternational.com/branson

Human Trafficking Focus Group – Week 6

Facilitators: This week, you will be sharing your faith story and how your faith in Christ motivates and sustains you in the fight against human trafficking and slavery. The attached worksheet will help you 1) communicate in a clear, concise way; 2) help you avoid rambling, being unclear, or leaving people confused; and 3) make clear connections between your relationship with Christ and seeking social justice.

Greet; reconnect; informal conversation (10 minutes)

Introduce the session with something like: “I really appreciate your participation in the group, and this week I’d like to share my faith journey and how my faith in Jesus Christ motivates and sustains me in the fight to end human trafficking.

Share your story (10 minutes)

Discussion:

- “I’d love to hear more about your own faith journey. Would you be willing to share that with the group? (Make sure your co-facilitator is ready to share his/her story if no one else does.)
- (For a group of non-believers): “I’d like to ask you to read *The Cosmic Code* tonight, and sometime, I’d like to interact about it with you. Give out *The Cosmic Code* (<http://crupressgreen.com/cosmiccode/>).
- If your group is made up of believers, thank the Lord together for the great salvation we have in Christ and pray for trafficking victims.

Close the meeting:

- Thank them again for their participation in the group
- Invite them to the next Cru meeting and justice event happening on campus

Sharing Your Faith Story (in less than 5 minutes)

You're preparing to share your faith story *with friends*. You want to prepare what to say (for brevity and clarity), but communicate in an informal way. You might think of your story in 3 main scenes.

Scene 1: Start with the time *when* the gospel – or Jesus as a Person – became real to you. Most likely, it was a time of transition, struggle, or deep need. Tell them just enough to connect with your struggle. You might start with:

- *“My life was fairly ideal until we moved to...”*
- *“My life took a really sharp turn in the road when...”*
- *“I actually come from a pretty dysfunctional family...”*

Include only enough detail to give them a sense of the struggle or need.

Scene 2: Continue your story by describing *how* Jesus stepped into your life, and how the gospel began to connect with your individual life and needs.

“Go to the place where [the gospel] felt the most real. Where you understood that God was bigger than you ever know. Go to the pain, go to the brokenness, go to wherever it all felt like too much, like more than you could handle, and start there. Pick up the thread and find that moment when you realized that the reality of the Incarnation – Jesus here, with us – meant something true and relevant for you.” (addiezierman.com)

Scene 3: *Connect* your faith to your involvement to help end human trafficking. Here are a few Biblical threads that you may be able to weave into the fabric of your story. Pick just one of them that is real in your own heart in order to explain how the gospel works in you to motivate you to seek justice for the oppressed.

- “The more I realize how trapped I was in my sin (shame, guilt, addiction, etc.) and that Jesus has set me free, the more I want to set others free of all that enslaves them...”
- “It’s becoming increasingly clear to me that I could not save myself from my sin, that I do not have the power to change myself, and that I need Jesus to be my Deliverer. This gives me compassion for those who are under the thumb of cruel oppressors and need a deliverer – someone to step in and free them. Because Jesus did this for me, I’m motivated to do it for others by trying to help bring an end to human trafficking in our lifetime.

Write this out, and repeat it enough times to share it naturally – and briefly! The five “B’s” of great communication are, “Be brief, baby, be brief!”