



CHANGE your world!

youth group devotionals on justice

MY GEN
MY FIGHT

CHANGE your world!

Church Youth Group Devotionals

This devotional was designed to be a guide for your Youth Group. There are topics to discuss, videos to watch as well as various prayer point focuses.

There are 12 devotionals in total, one for every month. We however encourage you to use this devotional as it will best suit your Youth Group and perhaps create your own prayer points to further engage your students.

Overview

1. Eyes to see the hurting
2. We believe in family
3. The freedom of sexual purity
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5. Freedom for slaves
6. Wisdom and discernment
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8. Unity in battle
9. God's provision
10. Restoration for victims
11. Justice and mercy for traffickers
12. A future and a hope



Word List

with biblical/Greek definitions/references for terms:

Justice - Justice is the equal treatment for all, not just a few. It is what is right and what is normal. In the bible, God defends and protects the debtor, the poor, the widow, and the orphan. Other definitions of justice include prosperity, deliverance and victory. It is a part of God's purpose in redemption.

Intercession - Intercession is prayer to God for your needs and the needs of others. It involves fighting for God's will and refusing to stop until His will comes to pass. It is a spiritual key to God's plan for our lives. We are not fighting a battle of this earth: "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and spiritual powers in the heavens above" (Eph. 6:12).

Strongholds - In the Greek, stronghold is defined as a fortress. It is found in the Bible to represent things based solely on human confidence rather than relying on God's wisdom and guidance such as having a "strong hold" over an individual.



Eyes to See the Hurting

Video to watch: CHILD TRAFFICKING

“Lord, you have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may oppress no more.” Psalm 10:17-18 [NKJV]

It is so easy in our very busy world to lose sight of the multitudes around us who are lost, hurting, and crying out for help. Our hurried lives can sometimes create a deafness to the cry of the one. But God sees the multitudes. He hears the cries of the one and His heart is moved with compassion.

“In the 40-plus years that I have been a Christian, I have served faithfully in the local church – teaching Sunday school, leading youth groups, preaching, doing administrative work, etc. I have been very “busy” for the Lord for many years. One day, in the midst of this busyness, a cold hard reality hit me. I did not have a heart for the lost: God’s heart. I was busy doing the “stuff” but missing what God wanted me to see. It was on a short-term mission trip that God captured my heart, and I saw the world as I had never seen it before. I saw it through God’s eyes. My unseeing eyes could now glimpse the multitudes and my deaf ears could catch the cries of the one.”

Betsy Meenk, ZOE International’s USA Regional Director

Too often, we get caught up in doing all the things we think are right and good, but miss the opportunity to look up and see the harvest fields. Matthew 9:35-36 says that Jesus went into all the villages preaching, teaching, and healing all the disease among the people. But when HE SAW THE MULTITUDES, He was moved with compassion. Matthew 18:10-14 tells of God’s heart for the ONE through the parable of the lost sheep. “Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that ONE of these little ones should perish.” Matthew 18:14 (emphasis added) (KJV)

There are MULTITUDES trapped in the world of human trafficking and

in the midst of that multitude, rises the individual voice of each ONE crying out for freedom. God has called His people to respond to these souls by loosing the bonds of wickedness, undoing heavy burdens, letting the oppressed go free, and breaking every yoke. (See Isaiah 59:16.)

Let's Pray . . .

Father, open our eyes that we may see the multitudes and open our ears that we may hear the cries of the individual. May our hearts be moved with compassion so that we do not just see and hear but that we are stirred to action. Lord, show us our part in responding to the cries. Use us, Your church, to bring freedom to the multitudes.

May the world know Your justice and mercy through Your people and may Your church be the force that brings freedom to many and ends human trafficking in our generation.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19 (emphasis added)

So be it. Amen.

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work;
prayer is the greater work.”

- OSWALD CHAMBERS -

Group Discussion Questions

1. When did you first hear about human trafficking. How did it make you feel?
2. What do you know about human trafficking in your own community?
3. Do you feel the church should be involved for freedom and justice around the world? Why or why not? How can the church (you) get involved to bring freedom and justice in your sphere of influence?

Prayer Guide

Pray for your church to be a source of light and love to the community you are in.

Other Bible Verses

Luke 4:18 – 19, Isaiah 59:16, Amos 5:24, Psalm 97:1-2



Families for the Lonely

Video to watch: WE BELIEVE IN FAMILY

“God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.” Psalm 68:6a [NLT]

Like thieves who look for unlocked cars and houses with flimsy locks, child traffickers look for easy targets. They look for young people who are unsupervised and unprotected.

Orphans, kids in foster care, and runaways are highly vulnerable. One group of young people has been tragically labeled as “throwaways.” These are children who have been kicked out of their homes or whose runaway status has gone unreported to authorities. How can these vulnerable children even begin to recognize their inherent value as God’s beloved creations?

Many traffickers pretend to care when they first meet these lonely children. They offer food and words of acceptance. In reality, their concerned exterior is nothing more than a tragic lie – a technique used to trap and control fragile people. The tremendous cost to the children seems irrelevant to those who seek to profit from their abuse.

But God’s view of these children could not be more different. His heart is deeply moved by their plight. *“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (NIV).*

Our God is a rescuer and a restorer. He alone can fill the role of the Father who will never abandon these hurting children. In His love, God raises up families for the lonely.

Let's Pray . . .

Dear God, please cause Your people to rise up and embrace the neediest children. Please fill us with deep love for children who are alone. We ask that you would place these lonely ones in families. Please work through Your body, the church, to bring healing and restoration to these precious ones.

So be it. Amen.

“All Kingdom ministry begins with, is sustained by,
and will triumph through prayer.”

- JACK HAYFORD -

Group Discussion Questions

1. God calls the church to care for orphans, but we have left that to the agencies. Why? What can we do to help?
2. How many people in need are being cared for by churches in your community?
3. Does/should your church have an outreach program specifically for single mothers, or half way houses for youth?
4. A lot of people in poor communities are “at risk” because they often don’t know what trafficking is because of lack of a education. Who do you think are at risk in your own community? What can you do to help?

Other Bible Verses

John 4:18, Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:1-4, Romans 6:17-18



The Freedom of Sexual Purity

Video to watch: HE LOVES ME

“For everything in the world—the craving of sinful men, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2:16-17 [NIV]

Human trafficking, like other businesses, operates on the basic economic principle of “supply and demand.” If humans are the supply, what then is on the other side of the equation driving the demand? Among other driving forces, human trafficking is fueled by the sin of lust.

Humanity’s sinful nature and Satan have worked together to create an extravagant array of options for sexual pleasure outside God’s perfect model of sex between a man and woman within marriage.

Satan can distort God’s perfect model of sex. In his deceptiveness, he sometimes wraps something very harmful in the guise of something innocent. The question is, “Where will we choose to draw the line?” A little immodest dress or occasional lustful thought may seem harmless when compared to other behaviors.

Maybe you have remained sexually pure, in that you have not engaged in sex outside of marriage. However, purity is about more than just about saving sex for marriage. Purity is a way of life. It stems from an attitude and condition of the heart. (See *Matthew 5:28*.)

As Christians, we are told not to tolerate impurity of any kind in our lives. Ephesians 5:3 states, *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”* (NIV) Personally, it’s taken some time for me to be convinced of the “not even a hint” part. The road to purity and holiness is difficult to travel. How easy it is to get caught up in all that the flesh desires. We may start out with the best of intentions, but there are times when temptation is so great that sexual purity begins to seem like more of a fantasy than a realistic

goal. Yet, all is not lost.

The full armor of God is available to us. And, as we address the topics of sex and purity within the church, we have each other. Sound teaching, accountability, and prayer are all valuable weapons that can be used in this battle against lust. We must not be afraid to address lust in our own lives or be afraid to lovingly address this sin in others. For we have a God who will graciously forgive us and lead us on a path of purity.

Let's Pray . . .

May we strive for purity and, in all our ways, seek to honor God with our bodies. May we not condemn others who are struggling with sexual sin. Instead, may we adamantly expose the deeds of darkness and seek to bring healing and health to those who are struggling with sexual sin. Further, direct our attitudes and hearts toward a healthy view of sex according to the Bible. Forgive us when we go astray and fall into sexual impurity. Cleanse us and lead us in Your perfect and holy ways.

So be it. Amen.

“No pressure is greater than God’s power.”

- CHARLES SWINDOLL -

Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe purity is a way of life? How can you live in purity? Do you believe what you look at, what you pay attention to affects you?
2. How can we guard our eyes and ears?
3. How is sexuality portrayed in your community? Do you feel like you can talk about this with your friends? How can you be an example of purity, without seeming judgmental?
4. In the video “He loves me” – it is clear how the girl is longing for love, how can she experience true, pure love?

Other Bible Verses

Romans 1

Paths of Escape

Video to watch: CHILD RESCUE

“Are you not the same today, the one who dried up the sea, making a path of escape through the depth so that your people could cross over?” Isaiah 51:10 [NLT]

Chapter fourteen of Exodus describes the Lord’s faithfulness in making a way of escape for the ancient Israelites. They had been trapped in slavery for generations, but in His time, God rescued them by miraculously opening an escape path for them. He parted the Red Sea.

In fact, God has a long history of rescue. His actions show His power and His great compassion for the oppressed:

He performed a miracle to save two boys from slavery. *(See 2 Kings 4.)*

He worked through a princess to save a baby’s life and a prostitute to save the lives of two Israelite soldiers. *(See Exodus 2 and Joshua 2.)*

He sent angels to save Lot and Daniel from death. *(See Genesis 19 and Daniel 6.)*

When Peter was in prison, God sent an angel to guide his escape. Peter was sleeping inside a prison cell, chained to two guards. He was awakened suddenly by an angel who told him to get dressed and follow him. The experience must have seemed surreal because Peter literally thought he was seeing a vision. Acts 12:10-11 tells what happened next.

“They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of the street, suddenly, the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, ‘Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.’”(NIV)

Truly God is capable of amazing things! He is all-powerful and is moved by compassion. He hears the cries of the oppressed and cares deeply

about their pain. He has shown Himself to be a God of miraculous rescue.

Let's cry out, together, on behalf of some of the neediest people among us – for victims of human trafficking. Let's ask our all-powerful God to create paths of escape for them as He has done for others.

Let's Pray . . .

Dear God, please bring rescue. Please create paths of escape for the victims of human trafficking. Please give them eyes to see these paths and empower them with the courage to run. Bring these precious people to safety by Your mighty hand.

So be it. Amen.

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian
on his knees.”

- WILLIAM COOPER -

Other Bible Verses

Isaiah 40:13

Group Discussion Questions

- 1.What can you do to Spiritually rescue someone in your community?
- 2.What do you think are some spiritual strongholds over traffickers, how can we pray on our own to help free victims?
- 3.Which Scriptures stood out to you the most, and why? Did anything surprise you about what Scripture says about justice or how often Scripture speaks of it?

Freedom for Slaves

Video to watch: ZOE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

“The armies of Israel captured 200,000 women and children from Judah and seized tremendous amounts of plunder, which they took back to Samaria. But a prophet of the Lord named Oded was there in Samaria when the army of Israel returned home. He went out to meet them and said, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, was angry with Judah and let you defeat them. But you have gone too far, killing them without mercy, and all heaven is disturbed. And now you are planning to make slaves of these people from Judah and Jerusalem. What about your own sins against the Lord your God? Listen to me and return these prisoners you have taken, for they are your own relatives. Watch out, because now the Lord’s fierce anger has been turned against you!’ Then some of the leaders of Israel—Azariah son of Jehohanan, Berekiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai—agreed with this and confronted the men returning from battle. ‘You must not bring the prisoners here!’ they declared. ‘We cannot afford to add to our sins and guilt. Our guilt is already great, and the Lord’s fierce anger is already turned against Israel.’ So the warriors released the prisoners and handed over the plunder in the sight of the leaders and all the people. Then the four men just mentioned by name came forward and distributed clothes from the plunder to the prisoners who were naked. They provided clothing and sandals to wear, gave them enough food and drink, and dressed their wounds with olive oil. They put those who were weak on donkeys and took all the prisoners back to their own people in Jericho, the city of palms. Then they returned to Samaria.” 2 Chronicles 28:8-15 [NLT]

The ancient Israelites attacked Judah and killed many of their own relatives. Then, they captured 200,000 others to keep as slaves.

In response, God’s prophet made it clear that keeping these slaves would invite God’s anger and punishment. The slave owners and their families would suffer. This frightened Israel’s leaders.

They decided to feed the captives, treat their wounds, clothe the ones who were naked, and return all of the captives to their own countrymen.

The captors did not release the slaves out of compassion. They released them out of selfishness . . . but they did release them.

It would be wonderful if human traffickers suddenly cared enough about their victims to set them free. But, wouldn't it also be wonderful, if like the ancient Israelites, they released them out of a desire for self-protection?

The point, after all, is that slaves must be set free. Any method God wants to use is a good one. Compassion, fear of reprisal, attentive neighbors, law enforcement actions – any path He chooses to bring rescue to slaves means that human beings will be free.

Let's Pray . . .

Holy and all-powerful God, we pray for rescue by any means at all. We cry out to You to free the slaves – in our country and around the world.

You alone are able.

So be it. Amen.

“We have to pray with our eyes on God,
not on the difficulties.”

- OSWALD CHAMBERS -

We do not need to figure out all the details and how these children will be rescued, but our part is to pray and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide. The pressure and burden is not on us to figure it out but it's on us to step out, pray, and say "Here I am, send me."

Group Discussion Questions

1. What methods have you heard of to rescue children from human trafficking? What methods do you think work? (fear of reprisal, attentive neighbors, law enforcement actions, awareness?)
2. Why do you think traffickers do what they do?
3. How can we pray for traffickers specifically?
4. What do you believe is the primary cause of the growth of trafficking in our day?
5. How do you think we can help?



Wisdom and Discernment

Video to watch: ZOE | LEADERSHIP TRAINING

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5 [NKJV]

Discernment: Knowledge of the truth regarding a situation or a person

Wisdom: The ability to use knowledge

It is very important for every believer to understand that we have been given a tremendous gift – an open door to God’s throne. Jesus paid an incredible price to provide us this privilege and it is God’s desire that we will walk through that open door and go to Him with our needs.

As we engage in the fight against human trafficking, it is absolutely vital that we intercede continually in prayer. God alone is the source of the strength, power, wisdom, and discernment we need to be victorious in battle.

The enemy knows the power of our prayers and will try his strategies to stop us. Remember, Jesus conquered and defeated Satan when He went into combat with the hosts of darkness and met the demands of justice to make possible man’s redemption from Satan’s power. Jesus left Satan defeated and paralyzed. We have been given the legal right to bind the power of the enemy and loose his captives through our prayers. This process demands a solid confidence in the Word of God.

There is no place for timidity or wavering in the believer, but only a willingness to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Satan is no match for the child of God who knows his blood-bought position in Christ – the position that gives confidence to work with God in prayer. According to Proverbs 2:1-6, we have available to us God’s wisdom and discernment to use as we need. Through prayer, we can have the ear of God and receive help and direction. Through prayer, we can also become a dangerous foe to the hosts of darkness.

Come to your Father God boldly, covered by the blood of Jesus, using the mighty name of Jesus as you expect your answer. He will NEVER FAIL you! You are as powerful as your prayer life.

Let's Pray . . .

Father, we come boldly to Your throne of grace and thank You that you have made available to us Your wisdom and Your discernment. Guide and direct us in this battle against darkness. May we have Your battle strategy to combat and overcome the enemy so that the captives may be set free.

So be it. Amen.

“Satan does not care how many people read about prayer if only he can keep them from praying.” - Paul E. Billheimer -

Other Bible Verses

Ephesians 6:10-18 1 John 5:14-15 Psalm 27:1-5 Luke 10:19 Hebrews 4:16 Proverbs 1:1-6

Group Discussion Questions

1. Do you believe that your prayers can change someone's life? Do you believe that by coming to Jesus, that He can tell us where children are being hidden and trafficked?
2. What are some things in your life where you have needed God's wisdom?
3. In what ways can wisdom help us combat at human trafficking?
4. How can we train others to become leaders that stand up for justice in our society?

Protection for Frontline Warriors

Video to watch: #DO ONE THING | MISSIONARIES

“Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, ‘Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.’ Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sunset. So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.” Exodus 17:8-13 [NASB]

The Amalekites launched an unprovoked attack against Israel in the valley of Rephidim. The tactics of the Amalekites were especially loathsome because they did not attack the armies of Israel. Instead, they attacked the weak and weary ones at the rear of the camp – the ones who were too ill, too weak, or too young to protect themselves. (See Deuteronomy 25:17-18.) Israel needed to be victorious in battle against this treacherous and sly enemy.

Moses formulated the battle strategy for the next day. He instructed Joshua to mobilize and lead an army to fight against the Amalekites in the valley, while Moses, with his hand lifting up the staff of God in a symbolic act of prayer, stationed himself on the hilltop with Aaron and Hur. As long as Moses’ hand was lifted up, Israel prevailed; when it was not, Amalek prevailed.

We learn from this passage that the battle was waged on two fronts that day – in the valley, with Joshua and the army of Israel battling the Amalekites, and on the mountaintop with Moses, assisted by Aaron and Hur, interceding for the protection of Joshua and his men and victory in the battle.

Based on the scripture, we understand that, although Joshua and the

army had to do their part by fighting against the Amalekites, the victory was actually determined by persistent intercession. Intercession means to rely purely on God, to stand in the gap and pray on behalf of another.

Those who are engaged in frontline battle against human trafficking face an enemy no less sly and treacherous than the Amalekites. These frontline warriors cannot win this battle alone. They need our prayers for protection, wisdom, and discernment as they go forth in the battle. Will you join the battle and pray for them?

Let's Pray . . .

We pray a hedge of protection around those who battle on the front lines against human trafficking. Thank you, Father, that You are faithful to strengthen and protect them from the evil one. We ask that You would contend against those who contend against these frontline warriors and that you would protect these warriors from all deception. We ask and thank You for generously releasing Your wisdom upon them.

So be it. Amen.

“Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.”

- W.S. BOWD -

Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever interceded for someone/something before?
2. Do you know of any frontline workers who fight human trafficking?
3. Does anyone have any testimonies from seeing breakthrough in intercession?

Unity in Battle

Video to watch: ZOE | MINISTRY SCHOOL STUDENTS

“How good and how pleasing it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1 [NIV]

I have heard it said that, “Snowflakes are one of nature’s most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.” The same point is illustrated again and again in nature. A single raindrop, being of no great effect, comes together with many raindrops to fuel the rushing forces of the great Amazon. A single small termite, easy to destroy, is joined by a great army of other small termites – resulting in the quick destruction of a great structure. And when God’s people are united in oneness of purpose, our strength is multiplied exponentially.

There was once a community in which about thirteen churches worked for 20 - 40 minutes each. They bagged chicken, rice, lentils, and spice. At the end of that time, over 1 million meals were packaged and ready to feed starving people in places most of them had never seen, or even conceived of visiting. This is the power of the collective. In a battle of such significance, those of us united against human trafficking can make no allowance for division. We must unite, each one doing the thing we are best equipped to do – working together for a great purpose.

At times, the evil may appear insurmountable. But the force of our unity in the cause of Christ Jesus – to set the captives free – combined with the power of the Unconquerable One is a winning cause. It is the unity of those in the light that will deal the winning blow that crushes the ugly roots, stem, and fruit of the great evil that runs rampant through the earth.

When we fight each other, we all lose. As Paul said, *“if you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other”*. Galatians 5:15 (NIV)

The richness of our gifts, strengths, and passions in regard to this cause is unmatched. Let us all be united in purpose, using those gifts side by side and contending with the true opponent. Let’s choose

to support, encourage, and strengthen each other as one!

Let's Pray . . .

Jesus, may we always trust in Your great power. May we understand the strength with which You have equipped us. May it be seen as a truly “good and pleasant thing” when we work together in unity. Show us how to work together. Reveal to us where the seeds of division may be growing and help us to root them out. May we work together in Your name as one body of believers to see that captives are freed, souls are saved, and wounds are healed. Bring together those who fight for the helpless, and teach us to learn from one another, yield to one another, serve beside one another, and share with one another. In Your perfect, holy, and mighty name.

So be it. Amen.

“God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer.”

- MOTHER TERESA -

Other Bible Verses

John 17:22

Group Discussion Questions

1. What are some areas in your everyday life, where you can pray for unity?
2. How can we work together when we have doctrinal differences?
3. Why is unity important?

God's Provision

Video to watch: ZOE | PRAY

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” Ephesians 6:11-12 [NIV]

When considering the enormous number of victims and the incomprehensible evil of human trafficking, it is easy to become overwhelmed with thoughts of hopelessness and defeat. When we look at this battle in comparison to our own capacity, it is a battle that does not bring great promise for victory.

But the good news is that we do not wage this war in our own wisdom and strength. God has provided HIS armor, HIS battle plan, and HIS assurance of victory. Ephesians 6:13 instructs us to put on the full armor OF GOD so that, when the day of evil comes, we may be able to stand our ground. It is in the power of Almighty God that we stand against the schemes of the evil one and it is through the Son of the Most High that we are assured victory in this battle against evil.

We must recognize the spiritual battle we are in and understand that the weapons of our warfare are “not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds.” 2 Corinthians 10:4b (NKJV)

As much as God has provided us with weapons for a spiritual battle, He surely does provide for the practical needs of battle as well. It takes money and personnel to rescue and care for victims of human trafficking. It takes money and personnel to bring freedom to the oppressed. God knows our needs and will supply them all “according to HIS riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19b (emphasis added) (KJV)

Let's Pray . . .

Father, we thank you for providing armor that we can wear into battle against the powers of darkness. Direct us in battle that we may obtain victory for those who are being oppressed. We ask that Your blessings be poured out on those who are battling on the front lines so that no need goes unmet, whether it be personnel to wage the war or financial provision to meet practical needs. We thank you that you know what we have need of before we even ask, and that you have made provision for us.

So be it. Amen.

“Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!” - Andrew Murray

Group Discussion Questions

1. What do you think are some strongholds in Human Trafficking?
2. What are some spiritual needs for the children who already have been rescued? How can we pray for their healing and restoration?
3. What are some ways that God can use us as individuals to meet the practical needs for the battle? Do you believe that if we are willing, that God is able?



Restoration for Victims

Video to watch: ZOE | VOCATIONAL TRAINING

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost.” Luke 19:10 [NASB]

Many familiar with the story of Zacchaeus the tax collector automatically associate the verse above with conversion and salvation. This scripture does, of course, address salvation. But, consider that the word “save”, appearing in this verse, is actually a translation of the Greek word “sozo” which has a broader meaning. It means to be saved, healed, and delivered, or in other words, to be made whole. (See Strong’s Greek 4982.)

Those who have been trafficked have suffered indescribable loss. They have lost their innocence. Many have lost their health, families, peace of mind, hopes, and dreams. Their hurt is deep. But, we know the One whose mission is to seek and restore to wholeness that which has been lost. And we know that “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (See James 5:16.)(NKJV)

So, let us pray fervently for these trafficking victims – for healing and restoration in every area of their lives, so that there will be nothing missing, nothing broken in any of them.

Let's Pray . . .

Father, we thank You for being a God of restoration. Your Word says that You do not change so we know that You are still Jehovah Shalom – the God of peace, the God of wholeness. We ask that You would restore to wholeness every area of the lives of those who have been trafficked.

We ask and thank You for healing for their bodies, souls, and spirits. We thank You that the plans that You have for them are good – to give each of them a future and a hope. Lord, God of peace, we ask that You would sanctify those who have been victimized and that the spirit, soul, and body of each one would be preserved, complete,

without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So be it. Amen.

“Prayer is where the action is.”

- OSWALD CHAMBERS -



Other Bible Verses

Isaiah 61:3, Romans 8:28

Group Discussion Questions

1. What elements do you believe are important in aftercare? Who are some professionals you think can help victims of human trafficking?
2. Do you know of any shelters/aftercare programs in your area?
3. How can we pray and get involved with aftercare?

Justice and Mercy for Traffickers

Video to watch: “Chosen” & ZOE | PROTECT YOURSELF

“I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” Acts 26:17b-18 [NIV]

“When I first learned about present-day slavery, I felt an overwhelming compassion for the victims. I was grieved over the torment, violence, and entrapment suffered by these human beings. My heart was especially broken to learn that children are brutalized in this way. I also felt grateful for my own freedom. In a very short time, though, I came to feel even more grateful that I am not a perpetrator of this vicious crime. I know that my heart is as capable of choosing evil as anyone’s. I was saved by God’s grace early in my childhood. I was trained to be mindful of the feelings of others. Still, I have chosen selfishness so many times.”

Marji Iacovetti, ZOE International’s Program Services Manager

What did the traffickers experience before arriving at this place – the place that propels them to abuse others so mercilessly? Were they victims of abuse before they began victimizing others? Undoubtedly, many were. But can they really be hardened to the tremendous cost of their actions? Can they truly believe that human beings have no value at all? What is their sense of their own worth?

We long for every human trafficker to come to justice – to be caught and imprisoned, to be prevented from destroying more lives.

We also call out, though, for God to bring freedom to these troubled men and women – not freedom from prison or consequence, but freedom from the hardness and greed that fuel their abusive behavior. And we ask that they would be saved from spending eternity separated from their Creator.

Let's Pray . . .

Lord God, may every trafficker be captured and stopped. May each one be held accountable and serve a fair prison sentence. And as they serve their terms in prison, please meet their deepest spiritual and emotional needs.

May they experience both justice and mercy – as You are both just and forgiving. May both slave and slaveholder find salvation and true restoration.

So be it. Amen.

“Prayer breaks all bars, dissolves all chains,
opens all prisons, and widens all straits
by which God’s saints have been held.”

- E.M. BOUNDS -

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think it’s so important to pray and give mercy for traffickers?
2. What are some specific things we can continue to pray for, so traffickers will change? Are mercy and justice mutually exclusive?
3. Is it hard for you to pray for someone who has committed such an evil act?

A Future and a Hope

Video to watch: THE STORY OF ONE | CHATRI

“For I know the plans I have for you’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11 [NLT]

When people are trafficked, they are abused layer by layer. In the process, they are robbed of the sense of human dignity that would embolden them to fight back. After enduring this control for months or years, it must be frightening to even hope for something better. We are told in Proverbs 13:12 that “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.”

While all of this is true, a greater truth remains: Our God is a great and mighty God! He is in no way limited by human circumstance.

The verse above was a part of a message from God to a group of people who had been captured and forcibly moved to a foreign land. Right in the midst of their exile, they learned that God had plans to give them a future and a hope – and God’s plans ALWAYS come to pass.

The sixth chapter of 2 Kings relates an experience shared by Elisha and his servant. The passage also reveals God’s capacity to see the hope and the truth that we, as people, often miss.

“Alas master, what shall we do?” This was the cry of Elisha’s servant when he saw that he and Elisha were surrounded by an enemy army.

Elisha responded with confidence, *“Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ Then Elisha prayed, and said, ‘Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”*

The danger was real. Elisha and his servant were surrounded by an enemy army. But the greater truth prevailed: They were also surrounded by God’s heavenly army who was there to defend them.

Oh, may the slaves living in the world today experience the greater truth – God’s power. May God intervene on their behalf with His great and mighty hand!

Then, may He bring to pass what they may be too afraid to even wish for a future and a hope. May He trade “beauty for ashes” for these precious ones and bring them to a wholeness that causes them to smile at the future.

Let's Pray . . .

Dear powerful God, please usher in Your power. Please bring rescue and safety to the enslaved. Then, Lord, please fulfill their deep personal longings – relational, educational, and professional. Please heal them so thoroughly that they can have healthy marriages and families.

We ask that You would bring such healing and restoration to their hearts that they, like Jeremiah, would cry out, “O Sovereign LORD! You made the heaven and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you!”

Oh, Lord, may the slaves be freed and empowered with a future and a hope. May their rescue and restoration bring glory to Your mighty name for You are worthy to be praised!

So be it. Amen.

“Prayer is the greatest of all forces,
because it honors God and brings him into active aid.”

- E.M. BOUNDS -

True Stories from ZOE

ZOE rescued three teenage boys from a brothel. The oldest boy – and the biggest and strongest of the three – was literally an enforcer at the brothel. His job was to make sure the other younger boys, including the two we rescued with him, were doing their ‘jobs.’ If they weren’t, he would beat them.

It was quite a tense situation after their rescue when they came and were integrated into the Children’s Home. Naturally, the two younger boys despised the older one fervently.

One evening a week, we have a time of prayer when the entire ZOE family – children, staff, ministry school students, and missionaries – gathers in the worship room to pray for an hour. It’s a very special and anointed time. We turn the lights down soft, play some inspiring worship music, and everyone prays in his or her own style on their own or goes about praying for others.

During one prayer night, one of the missionaries was sitting by the older boy. The two other boys were walking around praying for other people. As they neared the older boy, one said, “Let’s pray for him.” But the other boy said, “No”, and they walked away. A little while later the two boys returned and started praying for him. At that point, the older boy put his arms around the two younger ones and all three began praying for each other.

After that night of prayer, those three boys were like the Three Musketeers or Three Amigos of the ZOE Children’s Homes!

We see that kind of spiritual and emotional healing on a regular basis at ZOE and it fuels our passion to keep going in the face of some of the awful things we encounter in the arena of human trafficking.



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