



Families

The topic of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery can be a difficult one to tackle when discussing it as a family. You may have young children, pre-teens, teenagers, or even young adults in your household. No matter the age or maturity level, discussing the issues surrounding Human Trafficking can be a positive and affirming experience for everyone. There's never a need to get graphic or specific, but as a family it's important to talk about the root causes that contribute to the injustice. As a parent or guardian, you are the best equipped in knowing exactly how to address your family. The most important thing to remember is that just by taking a few moments to discuss the realities of Modern Day Slavery, you've not only helped equip your family with knowledge and awareness, but you've actually done something proactive to help end it. The following is a simple list of suggested topics and ways in which you can have a great conversation and prayer time. Please view our resources page at www.nwoprayer.org for a list of facts and information about Human Trafficking ahead of time so that you're equipped to guide the conversation.

For this event:

Take some time Sunday evening to talk about Human Trafficking as a family. Open in prayer and feel free to use our suggested list of topics and information below. You might want to take several moments to pray for those specific issues. Talk about what you can do as a family to stay safe, alert and aware. Talk about how you can establish Godly accountability for one another. Take some time to brainstorm about how you might want to do something special as a family to raise awareness or support a local organization. The most important thing is to simply *talk* about the issue.

What you need:

- A quiet place where everyone can talk without distraction.
- A joyful heart, a focused mind, and attentive ears.
- Time within the conversation for questions and prayers.
- A follow-up action plan

Don't let all of the following information overwhelm you! Use it as a resource tool and guide to help develop your own special time as a family. While this is a serious topic, keep it positive and encouraging. It's important to not instill fear, but encourage everyone to be confident in the power of knowledge and awareness. Establishing open communication and fostering positive interaction on this topic is essential.

This is your event, and we will be praying for you and your family as you share a special time of connecting with each other and the heart of our Heavenly Father.



Family Discussion Outline:

1. Talk about Human Trafficking; what it is, how it's happening in almost every community.
2. Discuss Human Dignity, Identity, Purpose of Destiny.
3. Spend a lot of time on the topic of online safety and the sharing of personal information and revealing pictures.
4. Have an open discussion about the dangers of online pornography, its link to human trafficking, and how to have strong accountability.
5. Talk about Greed and Materialism. Discuss values of honest labor and Godly principles of material possessions.
6. Discuss the issue of Labor Trafficking, how many of our goods are produced by modern day slavery and how we can help put an end to it. When it's unavoidable talk about how as a family you can pray for those who've helped produce the goods and items we use.
7. Public interaction. Talk about some of the tactics traffickers might use to ensnare victims. The importance of how we respond when we're approached by people we don't know.
8. Becoming an Abolitionist! Brainstorm and get creative on how you as a family can do your part in fighting Human Trafficking and making others aware of this issue.
9. Spend some quality time in prayer.
10. Develop an action plan for your family. Discuss how you can build upon this time spent together and ways in which you can move forward as family equipped with knowledge and prayer.

An excellent resource for your teens is the book Audacious by Diana Scimone. This book was written for teens and is a beautiful resource that will also help foster discussion on the topic. You can find a link on our resource page at www.nwoprayer.org

For more information on the topic we also recommend In Our Backyard by Nita Belles.



Suggested Topics:

1. Discuss what Slavery is and how our nation fought to end it. Explain that Slavery is still around, but has been hidden for many years, but because it's getting so big many people are starting to realize that it didn't truly go away.

- Slavery is simply forcing others to do something against their will for the profit and benefit of another person.

* For younger children explain that sometimes people try to 'trick' others into working for them. These victims are often hurt bad - and have no way of escaping on their own.

- Sex Slavery. For appropriate ages; we suggest having an open conversation about traditional views and stigmas surrounding Prostitution and Escorts. The average age of entry into prostitution is 12 years of age; and is not a chosen profession. Sex slavery further extends into pornography. Talk about how pornography is specifically designed to get people to believe in a fantasy and have a misconception about what true intimacy and sexuality is all about. Over 80% of the pornography produced is from enslaved men and women.

* For younger children there's no need to talk about sex trafficking. If you feel they can handle a little bit you can simply explain that a lot of slavery today is caused by people making others do things that can hurt them.

- Labor Trafficking. Many of the goods we use on a daily basis are made by modern day slaves who are often forced to work long hours, under extreme conditions, and with little or no pay. The little pay they get is often just one meal or enough to buy a little food.

* Younger children will be able to really understand this concept. Ask them what they think it would be like to have to work every day of the week, for 10 hours a day, for no money.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Talk about how our perceptions, attitudes, and prejudices or stereotypes might contribute to Human Trafficking. Discuss how learning about human trafficking has already changed some of your own ideas or outlook on life. Spend a few moments praying for those caught up in slavery.

2. Human Dignity. Human Dignity is the respect and honor of all human beings. Human Trafficking stems from a lack of respect of the individual liberty and sovereignty of each person. Everyone should be treated with honor and respect.

- Identity. Personal identity is very important in the conversation about human dignity. Traffickers often prey upon individuals who have low self-esteem, and can easily recognize those who may have suffered from abuse. Having confidence in who God created us to be, and the destiny of purpose that He's given each of us, can go a long way in preventing someone from becoming ensnared through coercion and manipulation.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Talk about how each of us can show respect, honor and value towards other people, no matter their status in life. Discuss personal identity and how God has a plan and purpose for all of our lives.



3. Online Safety is one of the most important things you can discuss when it comes to protecting your children from predators. With more people of all ages having access to the internet through mobile devices, and the increasing use of social media, online safety is crucial in everyone's life.
- Personal Information. One of the most dangerous things we can do is share too much personal information online. Traffickers will take months, and in some cases even years, grooming their victims online. Many of them search through social media posts to find out personal information so that they can forge a relationship online. They build trust by relating to them through information people freely share, such as music, their moods, social activities; these predators use anything they can to their advantage.
 - Pictures. A Trafficker's motto is that if they can get someone to share a picture of themselves in their underwear, then they have them hooked. Many predators will look through photo-driven social media in order to find young teens who innocently share revealing pictures. Unfortunately, a lot of teens think it's funny, sexy, or popular, often emulating popular celebrities. This is can be a calling card to trafficking.
 - Messaging. Chat rooms are increasingly being replaced by new forms of texting that mix social media with personal text messages. Again, predators will focus on a specific topic that someone might be interested in, and begin grooming them by establishing a conversation that seems innocent and focused on a particular subject. It's important to remind your family that when someone goes off topic and seeks to meet or get personal information, that's a big warning sign that they have alternative motives.
 - Online Gaming. Xbox Live and Playstation Network have been used effectively in some human trafficking cases. Predators will play video games and use the online microphone to establish gaming relationships. This is another form of grooming that has ended up in individuals becoming ensnared in trafficking.
 - Pornography. Unfortunately, recent studies have shown that the average age of exposure to hard core pornography is 8 years for boys, 11 for girls. Porn continues to gain acceptance within our society and is directly attributed towards the growth of Human Trafficking in America.

* Even with younger children, it's important to address this issue as you feel led.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Talk about what everyone is sharing online. Establish some parameters on what's acceptable to be shared with others.

Talk about ways in which your children can recognize some warning signs.

Encourage everyone to keep open communications. Have your children share with you who they're talking to and what's being shared.

Talk about the positive aspects of meeting other people online or through gaming. Many positive relationships can be formed. Discuss how everyone can have a positive and safe experience through operating in an 'online' society.

Discuss the dangers of exposure to online pornography. Talk about how God created us for true love and intimacy. Ask your family members what ways they can protect themselves and each other from the temptation of viewing pornography. (There's some decent blocking and accountability programs available on the market.) Spend some time praying for purity in the household, as well as praying for those who are caught up in the bondages of the sex industry.



4. Materialism and Greed. This is at the root of all Human Trafficking. It's impossible to live in our society and stay away from goods that are produced by modern day slaves. However, many efforts are being made to help stop the growing trend. From the coffee we drink, the chocolate we eat, the technology we use, and even the tires we drive on, a vast majority of our goods are produced by child and slave labor. That doesn't mean we stop living. Through adjusting some small purchasing habits, and asking companies to change their practices, we can make a big difference.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Talk about how you, as a family, can begin changing some of your buying practices. Through buying Fair Trade and Direct Trade products, you're supporting a positive form of commerce that is dedicated to ending modern day slavery.

Discuss how materialism and greed contributes towards Human Trafficking.

* For older teens, ask them how pop culture influences their perception of what's important in life. Ask them if they think that some people might see the hope of a glamorous lifestyle as way of getting trapped into human trafficking. Talk about how the growing Pimp-Ho culture is contributing toward human trafficking.

* For younger children discuss the true value of things in life. Talk about how material possessions, riches and fame are often an illusion to what life is really about.

Talk about your values as a family when it comes to a Godly perception of money and material things.

Spend some time praying for a Godly value of our work and the things we produce.

5. Awareness and prevention in public. We all know about talking to strangers. Maybe you've heard the true story of how some traffickers will drive around and ask kids to help them find their lost puppy? Many parents rightfully have concerns about their children's safety when they are outside in the world. Awareness and understanding how traffickers operate will go a long way in keeping your children safe.

- Traffickers love malls and movie theaters where teens congregate, and often employ teens to help ensnare their victims. They'll casually approach someone and begin telling them how beautiful they are, how they could be a model, etc. Unhindered by large groups, they quickly search for the most vulnerable/insecure or even shy person. Showering them with attention, their goal is to lure them away. It can be immediate, or exchange info to set up a date at a later time. It's important to note that just because there are other people around, doesn't mean someone is safe. Once lured away from their friends, victims have been led out of public places in plain sight of many others who are oblivious to their surroundings. This is why personal identity and awareness is so important. There's nothing wrong with meeting new people, and it's important to stay away from instilling fear in your child. Just a little knowledge can do a lot towards prevention from becoming a victim.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Ask your children how they would respond in certain situation where a stranger might approach them.

Do some role playing, this can be fun and informative! Develop a script of how your children might respond.

Encourage your children to not be frightened, but to be empowered and informed. Talk about contingency plans and the importance of never being alone with a stranger; even if they are in public with lots of people around.



6. Becoming an Abolitionist! A modern day abolitionist is someone who is dedicated to ending Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. It can be as simple as staying informed on the topic and praying for those caught up in the industry, or as involved as coming up with creative ways to raise awareness, support and volunteering for a local organization. Take some time to close out the conversation with some follow up action plans. Have fun and brainstorm about ways you can be more involved in supporting the movement to end the injustice of human trafficking in America, and throughout the World.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- What things can you do as a family to make a difference in your own personal lives as well as others when it comes to ending modern day slavery?
- What time, talent or resource do you have to contribute?
- Ask everyone how the discussion has impacted them. What can each of you do with this information and how can you move forward in confidence with awareness and prevention?
- What things can you do to help recognize potential victims and empower others to become informed?
- Spend some time asking God what He wants you to do.
- Talk about the Biblical principles of Justice, Grace and Mercy. Read Isaiah 63 and talk about how, through our prayers, Christ can truly “set the captives free.”