



+

TOOLS FOR  
**MEN**

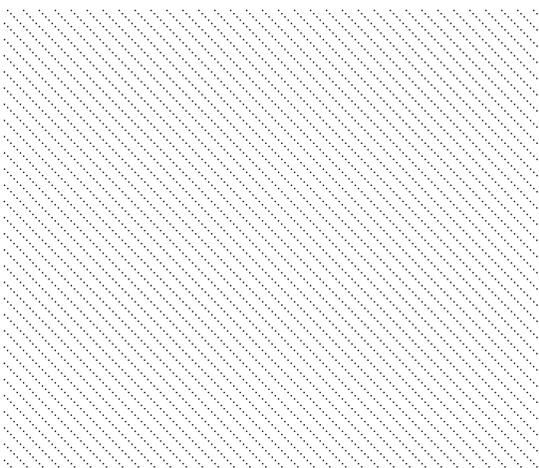
+

**FAITH** **IN** **ACTION**



# FAITH IN ACTION

THE TOOLS MEN NEED  
**TO WIN THE BATTLE AGAINST  
THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
OF OUR CHILDREN



## FIRST

WATCH THE FILM *CHOSEN*,  
LOCATED ON THE FLASH  
DRIVE INCLUDED IN THIS KIT.

## NEXT STEPS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	2
SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE	4
LEADER'S GUIDE	12
ACTION ITEMS FOR MEN	21

## SEX TRAFFICKING: GOD'S PERSPECTIVE AND YOURS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR MEN

#### + FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE...

*So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. —Genesis 1:27*

*And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image. —Genesis 9:5-6*

What do these verses teach us of the value God places on every human life?

*Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt ... Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt."*  
—Exodus 3:7-10

*Again, I observed all the oppression that takes place under the sun. I saw the tears of the oppressed, with no one to comfort them. The oppressors have great power, and their victims are helpless. —Ecclesiastes 4:1*

What do these passages reveal of God's heart for the oppressed?

#### + FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE AS A MAN...

How did Brianna and Lacy's stories impact you?

God's Word says, "Oppressors have great power and their victims are helpless." How did you see that truth play out between traffickers and their vulnerable young victims in *Chosen*?

What are some of the individual risk factors and vulnerabilities you recall from the video?

Think of the young people in your life. Are they susceptible to the tricks of predators? How so?

What steps might you take to protect them?

#### + FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE...

*And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. —Deuteronomy 6:5-9*

What does this passage teach you about communicating God's truth generation to generation? Where do you start? How and where do you carry it out?

*Treat older women as you would your mother, and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters. —1 Timothy 5:2*

How would you restate this verse in your own words? How is it relevant to the matter of exploiting women and girls?

#### **+ FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE AS A MAN...**

This generation's young men are engaging in behaviors that could easily morph into sexual addictions or exploitation of women and girls. What is driving this behavior?

What contributes to it?

Recalling the Deuteronomy 6 and 1 Timothy 5 passages above, what steps can you take to address this matter, in your own life and circle of influence? How can you teach other men and young boys to protect women and children instead of seeing them as a commodity?

#### **+ FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE AND YOURS...**

*What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. —James 2:14-17*

You've seen *Chosen*. You've been made aware of this pandemic of human tragedy. How would your failure to act be akin to saying, "Good-bye, have a nice day, be warm and eat well," and walking away?

*Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. —Psalm 82:3-4*

*Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. —Isaiah 1:17*

What would God have us to do where the needy, oppressed, and victimized are concerned?

*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice. —Proverbs 31:8-9*

How will you respond? What's your next move?

## SMALL GROUP STUDY: LESSON 1

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *trafficking*?
- What do you know of human trafficking today?

### Definitions

The root definition of *trafficking* is an illegal commercial activity—drugs or weapons trafficking, for instance. Trafficking is also used to describe the trading of human beings for purposes of exploitation—*human trafficking*.

*Sex trafficking* is human trafficking in which someone uses fraud, force, or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult, or cause a minor to commit a commercial sex act. Sex trafficking is a booming industry.

*Commercial sex acts* include pornography, prostitution, or sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value—things like money, drugs, shelter, food, or clothing.

As you can imagine, God's Word has much to say on these topics.

### + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll begin to piece together the framework for a Christian response to sex trafficking.

### The Worth and Dignity of Every Human Life

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

- What do you observe of this verse?
- What do you think "in his own image" means?
- How does this verse speak to the worth and dignity of every human life?

Read through some of these passages:

Genesis 9:5-6, Exodus 21:12, Deuteronomy 27:25, Psalm 8:4-5, Matthew 6:26, Galatians 1:15.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- How did they speak to the value God places on every human life?

### God's Heart

Read through some of these passages:

Exodus 3:7-10, Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 68:5, 82:3-4, 146:9, Ecclesiastes 4:1, Isaiah 1:17, James 1:27.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- How did they speak to God's heart for the hurting, downtrodden, and oppressed—for victims?

**+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topic of trafficking for you?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

**+ TAKING THE STUDY HOME**

This week, prayerfully read back through the verses we've considered. Ask the Lord to shape your perspective on human trafficking—to let His Word read you, as you read it.

The objectification of women isn't a new thing—it's as old as time. Prayerfully read ahead: consider Genesis 38, the story of Judah's objectification of women, as something to be bought for his own pleasure.

## SMALL GROUP STUDY: LESSON 2

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *slavery*?
- How are slavery and human trafficking related?

### Realities

Sex trafficking thrives because there is serious demand. *Buyers* fuel the market with their money. *Traffickers* or *pimps* exploit victims for the buyer's money. *Victims* include both boys and girls, bought and sold for profit.

Sex trafficking is spoken of as “the new slavery,” but there’s nothing new about it—it’s as old as time. What is new, however, are the channels through which buyers partake, and the avenues through which traffickers find and lure their victims.

Social media, the Internet, neighborhood hangouts, the mall, clubs, bars, schools—these are the places traffickers are *actively* trolling.

God’s Word offers historical context and eternal wisdom on this matter.

### + STUDY AIM

In this week’s study and discussion, we’ll look at the story of Judah and Tamar, an early account of the objectification of women in the Bible. We’ll also look at the tactics of evil’s deception—the same yesterday, today, and forever.

### Judah and Tamar: He Never Saw Her Face

Read or review Genesis 38:14-26.

- What do you observe of Judah’s “buyer’s mindset” in this passage?
- How is it that Judah never recognized Tamar?
- How does Judah’s outrage in verse 24 affect you?

Read through some of these passages:

Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 9:9, 10:17-18, 72:12-14, 103:6.

- What did you observe in the verses you read?
- What do these passages reveal of God’s heart for the victimized?

### A Walk in the Garden

Read Genesis 3:1-6.

- What did you observe here?
- What can you discern of evil’s tactics from the conversation between the serpent and Eve?
- In what ways are these same tactics practiced by sex traffickers in luring victims?
- In what ways does evil employ these tactics to enflame the lusts of “buyers”?

**+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topic of the objectification of women for you?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

**+ TAKING THE STUDY HOME**

Thankfully, evil didn't have the last word in the Garden. And it doesn't have to have the last word in our stories either. In light of Jesus' admonition in Matthew 7:5, to address the plank in our own eye before addressing the speck in someone else's, prayerfully examine your heart this week: How have you viewed and treated women?

## SMALL GROUP STUDY: LESSON 3

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *emancipation*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *freedom*?

### What We Know

Sex traffickers use *fear, violence, intimidation, and threats* to ensure victim compliance and to cash in, *meeting buyer demand*.

The common age a child enters sex trafficking is *between 14 and 16 years of age*—too young and naïve to realize what's happening. This isn't a scourge happening worlds away—*these are children in your neighborhood*, at the malls where you shop and in the schools your children attend.

Because of social stigma, misinformation, and *people looking the other way*, victims go unidentified—silenced by fear and the control of the trafficker.

How would God's Word have *you* respond?

### + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll look at Jesus Christ—the Author and Finisher of Freedom.

### Jesus, in His Own Words

Read Luke 4:14-21.

- What do you observe in this passage?
- How would you put into your own words what Jesus said of Himself in these verses?
- What did He mean saying that "this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing"?
- What light does this shed on Jesus' heart for those trapped and being victimized?

Read through some of these passages:

Psalm 91:14-15, 118:5, John 8:32, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16-17.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- What can we learn of emancipation and freedom from these passages?

### Part of the Problem, or Part of the Solution?

Read Luke 10:25-37.

- What did you observe in this passage?
- What can you see here regarding those who look the other way?
- What can we learn from the Good Samaritan's commitment to help the victim?

**+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topics of emancipation and freedom for you?
- What light has our study shed on loving our neighbor?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

**+ TAKING THE STUDY HOME**

This week, prayerfully read back through the verses we've considered. Once again, ask God to let His Word read you, as you read it. What is He showing you? What is He illuminating in your heart?

Prayerfully read ahead: Proverbs 31:8-9, Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Galatians 5:1, 1 Timothy 5:2, 1 John 1:9.

## SMALL GROUP STUDY: LESSON 4

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *lament*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *confession*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *forgiveness*?

### Truths and Consequences

Sex trafficking thrives because there is serious demand. *Those buying sex can be anyone*—professionals, students, tourists, military personnel, a family member, even members of a church.

*Viewing pornography* may be a solo act; however, the production of the material and the social and relational consequences of the behavior extend far beyond the individual.

Children and adults endure abuse at the hands of pornographers. The effects of pornography produce *skewed perception of healthy sexual behavior and boundaries*, impacting the viewer's personal relationship with a spouse or significant other.

Trafficked women and children face *an increased risk of violence or degradation* due to the normalization of deviant sex acts propagated through pornography.

How would God's Word have *you* respond?

### + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll consider the ideas of lament, confession, and forgiveness—three steps toward my making a difference.

### Feeling Pain

Read the following lament Psalms. As you do, imagine them from the perspective of someone having been trafficked and victimized.

Psalm 3, 10, 12, 22, 59, 70.

- What did you observe in the passages as you read?
- How has viewing these laments through a victim's lens affected you emotionally?

### Finding Relief

Read 1 Peter 4:17.

- What do you observe of this verse?
- How does it relate to men like you—men in the church?
- What sort of action point does it give us?

Prayerfully read Psalm 139.

- What do you observe?
- Ask the Lord to search your heart with this passage.

Read Psalm 32 and Psalm 51, two psalms of confession that flowed from David's heart.

- What do you observe of these passages?
- How do they relate to Psalm 139 and the promise you read this past week, 1 John 1:9?

### **+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topics of sex trafficking and your response?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

### **+ TAKING THE STUDY INTO APPLICATION**

- I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, and strength.
- I will embrace God's commands in my heart; seize opportunities to share them with the next generation; living my life as if God's Word adorns my hands, forehead, and the doorpost of my dwelling.
- I will speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and ensure justice for those being crushed.
- I will not be silent.

## SEX TRAFFICKING: GOD'S PERSPECTIVE AND YOURS

### SMALL GROUP STUDY: LEADER'S GUIDE

**Sex Trafficking: God's Perspective and Yours** is a four-week Bible Study and Discussion Group curriculum for men. It is outlined to include:

- The framework for a Christian response to Sex Trafficking
- An account of human trafficking in the Bible and evil's tactics of deception
- A study of Jesus—the Author and Finisher of Freedom
- Considerations of lament, confession, forgiveness, and action—a Christian man's path forward

Leader prep is minimal. The study follows the same pattern each week. Leaders should only need to prepare themselves by prayerfully reading through the Bible passages and questions in advance of each small group meeting.

Each week's study begins with **Opening Discussion** talking points—a brief introduction of and segue into the topic.

*[Hint: A little silence as people ponder is not a bad thing! Don't be quick to fill all open "air space," but let the group warm up.]*

**The Study Section begins with a Stated Aim followed by Readings and Discussion Prompts.**

*[Hint: Notice there is a mention of "observations" included with each Bible passage. These can be the real gems of Bible study and small group interaction.]*

*[Hint: Depending on time, where several passages are listed, you may choose to have individuals read some or all of them, or perhaps even assign different verses to different participants. Once again, cultivate each participant's "observations" and allow time for rich discussion to develop.]*

Each week's study concludes with a **Session Wrap Up** section, and includes an invitation to **Take the Study Home**.

*[Hint: Be sensitive to the possibility that different group members may come away with different impressions from the study—that's okay. God is at work—His Word never returns void, but always accomplishes His intended ends!]*

# LEADER'S GUIDE: LESSON 1

## + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *trafficking*?
- What do you know of human trafficking today?

### Definitions

The root definition of *trafficking* is an illegal commercial activity—drugs or weapons trafficking, for instance. Trafficking is also used to describe the trading of human beings for purposes of exploitation—*human trafficking*.

*Sex trafficking* is human trafficking in which someone uses fraud, force, or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult, or cause a minor to commit a commercial sex act. Sex trafficking is a booming industry.

*Commercial sex acts* include pornography, prostitution, or sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value—things like money, drugs, shelter, food, or clothing.

As you can imagine, God's Word has much to say on these topics.

## + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll begin to piece together the framework for a Christian response to sex trafficking.

### The Worth and Dignity of Every Human Life

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

- What do you observe of this verse?
- What do you think "in his own image" means?
- How does this verse speak to the worth and dignity of every human life?

*[Leader: Participants may observe different words in these verses—the plural "Let us" and "our" or perhaps the words "image" and "likeness." Some may note the "male and female" inclusion in this verse. Allow them to share observations and thoughts freely. There are no right and wrong answers here; you're simply asking "What did you see?" Encourage participants to contrast the two verses, noting the different value assigned to humans over that of animals. God gave mankind the responsibility and the cognitive ability and physical capacity to "rule" over the earth. You might also allow conversation to drift into what it means to bear a "likeness," say a child bearing a likeness to his or her father, and probe how we, as God's children, are seen to resemble our Heavenly Father. God assigned worth and dignity in assigning human beings as His "image-bearers."]*

Read through some of these passages:

Genesis 9:5-6, Exodus 21:12, Deuteronomy 27:25, Psalm 8:4-5, Matthew 6:26, Galatians 1:15.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- How did they speak to the value God places on every human life?

*[Leader: All of these passages speak to the worth of human life and dignity. Ask participants what they saw that suggested this value. Things like “a life for a life” or “you made man a little lower than the heavenly beings” suggest the worth, dignity, and value God places on life.]*

### God's Heart

Read through some of these passages:

Exodus 3:7-10, Deuteronomy 27:19, Psalm 68:5, 82:3-4, 146:9,

Ecclesiastes 4:1, Isaiah 1:17, James 1:27.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- How did they speak to God's heart for the hurting, downtrodden, and oppressed—for victims?

*[Leader: These passages reveal God's heart for the downtrodden and oppressed. Ask participants what they saw that suggested this. Things like “I have seen their misery” or “father to the fatherless” suggest His care for them and their plight, and His heart for their needs.]*

### + SESSION WRAP UP

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topic of trafficking for you?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

*[Leader: The Wrap Up is essentially your “debrief” opportunity. Your goal here is to wrap back around to the start—asking, “What have you come away with?” And not just from the Bible verses read, but from one another and the interactions over the passages shared. This week we looked at sex trafficking from God's perspective: (1) It is an offense to God; it stands against His design and intent for mankind; (2) He cares for its victims ... and (3) as His children, image-bearers of our God, so should we.]*

### + TAKING THE STUDY HOME

This week, prayerfully read back through the verses we've considered. Ask the Lord to shape your perspective on human trafficking—to let His Word read you, as you read it.

The objectification of women isn't a new thing—it's as old as time. Prayerfully read ahead: consider Genesis 38, the story of Judah's objectification of women, as something to be bought for his own pleasure.

*[Leader: Encourage participants to take the study with them into their week. Take a moment to actually read through the “assignment,” using it as a preview for next week, before you close in prayer.]*

## LEADER'S GUIDE: LESSON 2

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *slavery*?
- How are slavery and human trafficking related?

### Realities

Sex trafficking thrives because there is serious demand. *Buyers* fuel the market with their money. *Traffickers* or *pimps* exploit victims for the buyer's money. *Victims* include both boys and girls, bought and sold for profit.

Sex trafficking is spoken of as “the new slavery,” but there’s nothing new about it—it’s as old as time. What is new, however, are the channels through which buyers partake, and the avenues through which traffickers find and lure their victims.

Social media, the Internet, neighborhood hangouts, the mall, clubs, bars, schools—these are the places traffickers are *actively* trolling.

God’s Word offers historical context and eternal wisdom on this matter.

### + STUDY AIM

In this week’s study and discussion, we’ll look at the story of Judah and Tamar, an early account of the objectification of women in the Bible. We’ll also look at the tactics of evil’s deception—the same yesterday, today, and forever.

### Judah and Tamar: He Never Saw Her Face

Read or review Genesis 38:14-26.

- What do you observe of Judah’s “buyer’s mindset” in this passage?
- How is it that Judah never recognized Tamar?
- How does Judah’s outrage in verse 24 affect you?

*[Leader: Participants may or may not have read this before this week’s gathering. Allow time to revisit the passage. Guide the observation section with the questions above. Judah didn’t recognize Tamar because he was looking at her only in a sexual way—to him she was a faceless body, a prostitute to be used. He never asked her name or where she was from, but he entered into what was intended to be an intimate act without even recognizing she was the widow of his own son. Contrast Judah’s treatment of Tamar with God’s heart in caring for widows from last week’s study. Judah’s outrage upon hearing his daughter-in-law had prostituted herself, yet seeing himself as guiltless for having bought sex from a prostitute, should provoke thought, conversation, and even reflection.]*

Read through some of these passages:

Deuteronomy 10:18, Psalm 9:9, 10:17-18, 72:12-14, 103:6.

- What did you observe in the verses you read?
- What do these passages reveal of God’s heart for the victimized?

*[Leader: Allow participants to freely share observations. All of these passages speak to God being a refuge for the hurting. Phrases like “a stronghold in times of trouble” or “works justice for the oppressed” suggest His heart cares for the victimized. It’s worth noting as often as it applies—as sons and daughters of our Father, His image-bearers, this ought to be our heart, too.]*

### **A Walk in the Garden**

Read Genesis 3:1-6.

- What did you observe here?
- What can you discern of evil’s tactics from the conversation between the serpent and Eve?
- In what ways are these same tactics practiced by sex traffickers in luring victims?
- In what ways does evil employ these tactics to enflame the lusts of “buyers”?

*[Leader: Observations and discussion may note the word “crafty.” In this passage we see the craftiness the serpent used to trick Eve: (1) He brings confusion, “Did God really say...?”; (2) He lies, implying God is keeping something from you; (3) He encourages her—the fruit is desirable, good for food, pleasant to the eye, desirable knowledge. Those are the same tactics evil employs to this day. Allow discussion to drift into the realm of the sex industry and its buyers, sellers, and victims.]*

### **+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topic of the objectification of women for you?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we’ve discussed this topic and these passages?

*[Leader: The Wrap Up is essentially your “debrief” opportunity. Your goal here is to wrap back around to the start—asking, “What have you come away with?” and not just from the Bible verses read, but from one another and the interactions over the passages shared. Encourage participants to allow this week’s study to search their hearts (see Taking the Study Home below).]*

### **+ TAKING THE STUDY HOME**

Thankfully, evil didn’t have the last word in the Garden. And it doesn’t have to have the last word in our stories either. In light of Jesus’ admonition in Matthew 7:5, to address the plank in our own eye before addressing the speck in someone else’s, prayerfully examine your heart this week: How have you viewed and treated women?

## LEADER'S GUIDE: LESSON 3

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *emancipation*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *freedom*?

### What We Know

Sex traffickers use *fear, violence, intimidation, and threats* to ensure victim compliance and to cash in, *meeting buyer demand*.

The common age a child enters sex trafficking is *between 14 and 16 years of age*—too young and naïve to realize what's happening. This isn't a scourge happening worlds away—*these are children in your neighborhood*, at the malls where you shop and in the schools your children attend.

Because of social stigma, misinformation, and *people looking the other way*, victims go unidentified—silenced by fear and the control of the trafficker.

How would God's Word have *you* respond?

### + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll look at Jesus Christ—the Author and Finisher of Freedom.

### Jesus, in His Own Words

Read Luke 4:14-21.

- What do you observe in this passage?
- How would you put into your own words what Jesus said of Himself in these verses?
- What did He mean saying that “this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing”?
- What light does this shed on Jesus' heart for those trapped and being victimized?

*[Leader: In this text, Jesus took the passage from Isaiah 61:1-2 and applied it to Himself. Allow participants to paraphrase the passage to help discover what Jesus was saying—that He is the One sent to fulfill God's redemptive plan. Words like “freedom” and “release,” terms like “preach good news” and titles like “the oppressed” and “the blind,” should all be thought-provoking and contextualizing—God cares! Jesus is His love, revealed.]*

Read through some of these passages:

Psalm 91:14-15, 118:5, John 8:32, 2 Corinthians 3:17, Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16-17.

- What did you observe in these verses?
- What can we learn of emancipation and freedom from these passages?

*[Leader: Participants may note phrases like “he will call upon me and I will answer him” and “I will be with him in trouble,” or testimonies like “in my anguish I cried out to the Lord and He answered” as they relate to His heart for the hurting and victims of sex trafficking ... as well as those enslaved to sexual addiction. Ours is a God of freedom, emancipation, redemption, and renewal.]*

### **Part of the Problem, or Part of the Solution?**

Read Luke 10:25-37.

- What did you observe in this passage?
- What can you see here regarding those who look the other way?
- What can we learn from the Good Samaritan's commitment to help the victim?

*[Leader: Observations of all players in this story are appropriate. Those who walked away, what might their motives have been? What risks and dangers might the Samaritan have faced in rolling up his sleeves to help? The greater context of this story is the question: Who is my neighbor? Allow participants to ponder the relationship of that question to those involved in the sex industry and our call to care ... and help.]*

### **+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topics of emancipation and freedom for you?
- What light has our study shed on loving our neighbor?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

### **+ TAKING THE STUDY HOME**

This week, prayerfully read back through the verses we've considered. Once again, ask God to let His Word read you, as you read it. What is He showing you? What is He illuminating in your heart?

Prayerfully read ahead: Proverbs 31:8-9, Deuteronomy 6:5-9, Galatians 5:1, 1 Timothy 5:2, 1 John 1:9.

## LEADER'S GUIDE: LESSON 4

### + OPENING DISCUSSION

- What comes to mind when you hear the word *lament*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *confession*?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word *forgiveness*?

### Truths and Consequences

Sex trafficking thrives because there is serious demand. *Those buying sex can be anyone*—professionals, students, tourists, military personnel, a family member, even members of a church.

*Viewing pornography* may be a solo act; however, the production of the material and the social and relational consequences of the behavior extend far beyond the individual.

Children and adults endure abuse at the hands of pornographers. The effects of pornography produce *skewed perception of healthy sexual behavior and boundaries*, impacting the viewer's personal relationship with a spouse or significant other.

Trafficked women and children face *an increased risk of violence or degradation* due to the normalization of deviant sex acts propagated through pornography.

How would God's Word have *you* respond?

### + STUDY AIM

In this week's study and discussion, we'll consider the ideas of lament, confession, and forgiveness—three steps toward my making a difference.

### Feeling Pain

Read the following lament Psalms. As you do, imagine them from the perspective of someone having been trafficked and victimized.

Psalms 3, 10, 12, 22, 59, 70.

- What did you observe in the passages as you read?
- How has viewing these laments through a victim's lens affected you emotionally?

*[Leader: Each of these Psalms is a lament. Allow participants to share observations—phrases like "How many are my foes?" and "many say 'God will not deliver me'" may speak to how a victim feels, what it's like to be trapped. This week we want to focus on feeling a victim's pain—to see the girl beneath the veil (referring back to Judah and Tamar from Week 2) who has a name, a face, a story, a history, and deep hurts for what they're experiencing.]*

**Finding Relief**

Read 1 Peter 4:17.

- What do you observe of this verse?
- How does it relate to men like you—men in the church?
- What sort of action point does it give us?

*[Leader: Participants will observe this verse promises judgment will start within the family of God. Remind them that we have asked the Lord to examine our hearts throughout this study—what has He been revealing? As men, have we been like Judah (from Week 2), hypocrites? And where sex trafficking's victims are concerned, this is a clarion call that the Church cannot remain silent, cannot look the other way, believing "this doesn't affect me"—because it does.]*

Prayerfully read Psalm 139.

- What do you observe?
- Ask the Lord to search your heart with this passage.

Read Psalm 32 and Psalm 51, two psalms of confession that flowed from David's heart.

- What do you observe of these passages?
- How do they relate to Psalm 139 and the promise you read this past week, 1 John 1:9?

*[Leader: Encourage an honest and prayerful invitation for all the group's participants—let the Word of God read you, the Spirit of God search you, the love of God reveal to you any impurities you need to deal with in this area. Encourage participants with the confession psalms—this sort of healing, freedom, and joy await us when we call sin in our lives sin and no longer make excuses or try to hide it.]*

**+ SESSION WRAP UP**

Briefly revisit our opening discussion.

- What light has our study shed on the topics of sex trafficking and your response?
- How have the thoughts and observations of others challenged you as we've discussed this topic and these passages?

**+ TAKING THE STUDY INTO APPLICATION**

- I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, and strength.
- I will embrace God's commands in my heart; seize opportunities to share them with the next generation; living my life as if God's Word adorns my hands, forehead, and the doorpost of my dwelling.
- I will speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and ensure justice for those being crushed.
- I will not be silent.

## ACTION ITEMS FOR MEN

These materials originated from the Defender's USA, the men of Shared Hope, acknowledging that men are the driving force behind demand for commercial sex and need to be the driving force to end sex trafficking and exploitation. You can go from being part of the problem to part of the solution by becoming a Defender today!

### + TAKE THE PLEDGE

Take the Defenders Pledge, where men commit their lives to bring dignity, honor, and respect to women and children. Out of that flows other initiatives, which exist to show women that we care, hold other men accountable, facilitate restoration for those affected by the commercial sex industry, and work to end demand in this destructive market.

Visit [sharedhope.org/defenders](http://sharedhope.org/defenders) to take the pledge:

**Today, I am making a commitment in my life to demonstrate the following before my family and friends:**

- I am taking a stand to fight against pornography, prostitution, or any form of the commercial sex industry.
- I will hold my friends accountable for their actions toward women and children.
- I will take immediate action to protect those I love from this destructive market.

### + TAKE ACTION

1. Host a small group study for men on sex trafficking using the guide in this booklet: *God's Perspective and Yours*.
2. Host a showing of the documentary *Chosen* for your family, business, community group, or faith-based organization.
3. Start a Defenders Men's Group in your area.
4. Become informed about how child trafficking really works in America. Order *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children* by Linda Smith.
5. Follow Shared Hope International and the Defenders on Facebook and Twitter.
6. Share the Defenders video with people you know.
7. Organize Defenders to distribute literature near venues promoting domestic minor sex trafficking.
8. Donate to the Defenders and Shared Hope International to help protect, defend, and restore victims of sex trafficking.
9. Visit our "Join the Cause" page for more ways to take action.
10. Share the work of the Defenders by networking with local coalition groups and attend their events and meetings.
11. Approach local schools or youth groups to show *Chosen*.

**+ TALK ABOUT IT**

You're at work and you see a co-worker looking at porn. What do you do?

- Share with them that they are unwittingly contributing to the commercial sex industry.
- Every click means money that is most likely going to a third party.
- Those in the pictures are most likely being controlled, manipulated, or coerced into posing. They are not willing participants.

A man makes lewd remarks about a woman. Start with, "I'm sure you don't mean this but..."

- Explain that they need to understand that the objectification of women is contributing to our culture in sex trafficking and domestic abuse.

I recognize the dangers for my own daughter of sexual exploitation in the world. What do I do?

- Educate her on the signs of sex trafficking.
- Treat her with respect and tell her to expect nothing less from any man.

I don't want my son to become a predator. How do I handle that?

- Don't be afraid to share the absolute truth with him about sexual exploitation.
- Teach him to be a Defender, like Evan in the film *Chosen*.
- Challenge him to always protect women and children and never hurt them through words or actions.

I'm caught in pornography. What can I do?

- Find a trusted man in your life and express to him what you're going through.
- Seek help through a group like Pure Desire Ministries, and go online to join a Conquer group.

I see a friend of mine trapped in porn. What do I do?

- Approach him. Express that you aren't condemning but that you want to help him discover the wounds that has led him into this trap.
- Tell him you'll attend a men's group that will help him unravel the schemes of the enemy that have ravaged his soul. Help him find a Pure Desire Ministries men's support group for sexual addictions.

So many people are already fighting this issue, why do I need to get involved?

- "In the end, we will not remember the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Your silence is an assent to this horrific crime of our culture.
- Read Proverbs 24:11-12 and decide for yourself.

How can I lead by example?

- Don't look at nude or scantily clad women—avert your eyes or change the channel when sex is selling something or a program airs a gratuitous sex scene. Teach those around you to clean up their language and thoughts and not succumb to this culture's naturalization of making women sex objects.









Shared Hope International | P.O. Box 65337 | Vancouver, WA 98665

**SHAREDHOPE.ORG**