**REACH OUT, CONNECT, SHARE**

**Kentucky Council of Churches**

**Campus Ministry Modules**

**7. Counteract Human Trafficking**



**Module Flow**

1) Introduction.

2) Bible Passages.

3) Bible Studies:

1. Human Trafficking is Slavery.

2. Human Trafficking is Oppression.

3. Human Trafficking is Selling the Poor for a Pair of Sandals.

4. Human Trafficking promotes Poverty.

5. Human Trafficking sins against Hospitality to Neighbors.

6. Human Trafficking sins against Hospitality to Strangers.

7. Human Trafficking calls us to Intercede with Government Officials.

4) On-line Enrichment Resources: KCC, WCC, TED, The Moth, Films, etc.

5) Mission and Outreach with Community and Global Partners

**Introduction**

Human trafficking today is a problem that is greater in proportions to the slave trade in the 18th and 19th century. Alone the trade in young children and women in the sex trade is at a crisis level. Christian conviction must counteract this debasement of human beings. Scripture clearly condemns slavery and oppression. Christians are empowered by God to counteract the evil of human trafficking.

**Guiding Question**

How can we, as children of God, reach out, connect, share with those experiencing Human Trafficking? How can we, as children of God oppose modern day slavery which manifests itself today in the “trafficking” of human beings?

**Guiding Bible Passage**

Exodus 6:6-9 God commands Moses,  **6**“say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. **7**I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians.**8**I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.’” **9**Moses told this to the Israelites; but they would not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and their cruel slavery.”

**Bible Passages**

**Redemption of Israel from the house of slavery:** Exodus 2:26; Deut 7:8; Deut 13:5.

**Protection of Israel on her path toward freedom:** Joshua 24:17.

**Israel is rescued from oppression:** Deut 26: 4-6.

**Slaves who are part of God’s plan of salvation:** Hagar: Genesis 16: 1-9, 8-20; Joseph: Genesis 37:3-4, 19-36; Genesis 39; Acts 7: 9-10; The Israelites in Egypt: Exodus 1:6-14, 3:7-10; Naaman’s slave girl: 2 Kings 5: 1-6; Onesimus: Philemon 8-21.

**Justice for the poor and the slaves:** Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-14; Psalm 103:1-6; Proverbs 31: 1-9; Luke 4:17-18; and Isaiah 61:1-2.

**Widows and Orphans:** Job 22:5-9; James 1:27.

**Bible Study Supplies**

For the Worship Center you will need: a Bible, a candle, four T-shirts and photos of trafficked individuals, photos of the participants, a pair of sandals

You will also need a Bible for every participant, adhesive tape, white paper, colored markers, crayons, pencils, and/or pens. Seven long sheet of butcher-block paper.

A copy of Congressman Randy Forbes’ “The Cost of Human Trafficking” (June 16, 2015).

<http://forbes.house.gov/updates/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398382> .

**Bible Study/Worship Center**

Arrange four T-shirts on the table in an overlapping manner so that the necks of the T-shirts are in the center. Place old shoes/sandals on the table. Place a candle in a candleholder in the center. Place the photos of trafficked individuals around the candle. You could also add photos of the participants to show that we are all members of the body of Christ. You could add a battered suitcase, rope, stale bread, a bottle of water, a handkerchief, an empty coin purse, a few pennies etc.

**Bible Study/Human Trafficking is Slavery**

1. What is God’s position on slavery?

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that when people are “trafficked” they are being sold into slavery. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read the stories of the following slaves: Hagar: Genesis 16: 1-9, 8-20; Joseph: Genesis 37:3-4, 19-36; Genesis 39; Acts 7: 9-10; The Israelites in Egypt: Exodus 1:6-14, 3:7-10; Naaman’s slave girl: 2 Kings 5: 1-6; Onesimus: Philemon 8-21?

Ask: How does God value and care for these slaves? How are they included in God’s plan for salvation?

Reflect: What does this mean for our understanding of the importance of slaves in God’s plan for salvation? What implications does this have for how we view enslaved persons? Does it change how we treat each other when Jesus in Matthew 19:30 and Mark 10:31 says, “But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Activity: Invite one person to lie down on the floor on a long piece of butcher-block paper. Invite another person trace around the their body with a magic marker. The resulting outline will look like a “body outline” at a crime scene.

Think about our society. Who is at “the top” of society? Who is at the bottom? Make a list of people in the order that society places them. A possible list of professions can be found on: <http://arcana.wikidot.com/list-of-all-occupations>. Pick 25 and arrange them from most to least important in society’s eyes. Society usually gives the highest salaries to those people who it values the most. See <http://www.businessinsider.com/top-paying-jobs-in-america-2015-9/#1-anesthesiologists-30> and <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/38168029/ns/business-careers/t/lowest-paying-jobs-america/#.WE81KmQrJpk>.

Write the professions on the “body outline.” Where would you put these professions on the body if you were to reflect our stratified society? Where would you put each of these professions if you reflect the ideal of Christian society? What does this mean in light of Matthew 19:30, Mark 10:31 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

Tape the “body outline” on the wall.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Human Trafficking is Oppression**

2. Human Trafficking is Oppressing Human Beings.

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that when people are “trafficked” they are being oppressed. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read the following passages about oppression and speaking up against oppression: Psalm 72: 1-2, 12-14; Psalm 103:1-6; Proverbs 31: 1-9; Luke 4:17-18 and Isaiah 61:1-2; Micah 6:8.

Ask: What do these passages reveal about God’s heart for the oppressed?

How else do you know that all people are precious in God’s sight?”

Read: World Council of Churches Minute on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (27 June 2016).

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/2016/minute-on-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling>

Reflect: Where do we see oppression? Is it difficult to stand up and speak up when we see oppression? Where are the limits to our tolerance of a system of oppression? How can we speak up?

Activity: Invite one person to lie down on the floor on a long piece of butcher-block paper. Invite another person trace around the their body with a magic marker. The resulting outline will look like a “body outline” at a crime scene. Invite the other participants to write the problem of oppression on one side of the “body” and the solution to the problem of oppression on the other side of the “body.”

Tape the body outline on the wall.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/ Human Trafficking is Selling the Poor for a Pair of Sandals**

3. Human Trafficking is Selling the Poor for a Pair of Sandals.

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that when people are “trafficked” they are being sold for a pair of sandals. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read: Amos 8:1-6.

Ask: Does this passage resonate with us today? If we were to find our “identity” in this passage would we be “the poor” who are oppressed or the ones who oppress the poor? Do we rush to “do business” when we should be worshipping God? How is the way we treat others related to the way we treat God?

Reflect: Is $90 a lot of money? How much does a pair of sandals cost? How much did you spend the last time you went out to eat with your family? How much is your weekly grocery bill? Did you know the average price of a trafficked person is $90?

Read: Congressman Randy Forbes’ “The Cost of Human Trafficking” (June 16, 2015).

<http://forbes.house.gov/updates/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398382>

Activity: Invite someone to lie down on the floor on a long piece of butcher-block paper. Invite another person trace around the their body with a magic marker. The resulting outline will look like a “body outline” at a crime scene. Invite the participants to go to the “body” and write the answer to the question: “What is our complicity in human trafficking” on it.

Tape the body outline on the wall.

Activity: Ask the participants to bring “like new” or “new shoes” for children to the next session. Give these shoes to a school in a low-income neighborhood.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Human Trafficking is Poverty**

4. Human Trafficking and Poverty

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that when people are “trafficked” they are being consigned to poverty. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read Ps. 72:11-14; Ps. 107: 1-9; Ps. 41: 1-2, Matt. 25:31-46.

Ask: What is the relationship between the poor and the righteous person.

Ask: What else are you hearing about human trafficking in the news and in films and TV shows? What surprises you the most about what you hear about human trafficking? Do you know that it is not just happening in other countries but in the U.S. as well? For what two purposes are people most commonly trafficked?

Reflect: Do you hear more about one kind of trafficking than the other?

Why do you think that is? The kind of human trafficking we seem to know most about has to do with sexual exploitation. But this is not the only type of human trafficking. Human trafficking and the trafficking of migrants across borders go hand in hand. When we talk about human trafficking we have to decide: Is it a women’s issue? Is it a children’s issue? Is it an immigrant issue? What is it really about? Could it be that it is really about greed, exploitation, oppression, profit, and cruelty?

Read: The World Council of Churches Decries Human Trafficking (28 June 2016).

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-central-committee-decries-human-trafficking-and-smuggling-of-migrants>

After the participants answer these questions invite them create another “body outline.” Invite the participants to go to the “body” and write their reflections on the question: “What is trafficking really about?”

Tape the body outline on the wall.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Human Trafficking and Hospitality to Neighbors**

5. Hospitality to Neighbors and Friends

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that we are called to be hospitable to neighbors and friends. When we turn away from Trafficked Persons we sin against the call to love our neighbor. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read: Mark 12:31-33; Luke 10:25-37; Luke 11: 5-8; Galatians 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:6, 12; and 1 Peter 4: 10-1.

Ask: What do these verses tell us about the privilege we have to love our neighbor?

Reflect: As Christians we are further empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the love we have received in Christ through service to the neighbor. How do we do this in our own neighborhoods? How do we do this in our congregation? How do we do this in our university or college?

As the participants answer these questions invite them create another “body outline.” Invite the participants to go to the “body” and write their reflections on the question: What does the biblical call to radical hospitality and love of neighbor and friend call us to do?

Tape the body outline to the wall.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Human Trafficking and Hospitality to Strangers**

6. Hospitality to Strangers

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that we are called to be hospitable to strangers. When we turn away from Trafficked Persons we sin against the call to love the stranger. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read: Lev. 19:18; Lev. 19:34; Romans 12: 9-13; Hebrews 13: 1-3; Deut 10:17-19; Ps. 146:9; Luke 10:25-37.

Ask: What kind of radical hospitality is being demanded of Jesus’ followers. What kind of hospitality is shown to strangers in these passages?

Read:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/international-affairs/human-rights-and-impunity/practising-hospitality-in-an-era-of-new-forms-of-migration>

Reflect: What should we do in light of the ideal of radical hospitality?

Does the biblical call of radical hospitality to strangers call us to action? An essential element of the law, according to Deuteronomy, is loving the stranger. Does the biblical call of loving the stranger call us to action? What stops us from loving the stranger? Where does our fear come from? Since, according to 1 John 14:18, perfect love casts out fear, does our fear of strangers negate our love of God? How can we love our neighbor if we fear strangers?

As the participants answer these questions invite them create another “body outline.” Invite the participants to go to the “body” and write their reflections on the question: What does the biblical call to radical hospitality and love of stranger call us to do?

Tape the body outline on the wall.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Interceding with Government Officials**

7. Human Trafficking is a legal issue as well as a religious issue.

**Bible Study/Opening Prayer**

Begin by introducing the topic of Human Trafficking. Stress that when people are “trafficked” they do not have a voice. We are called to be a voice for the voiceless. We are called to intercede for them with government officials. Open by praying the Lord’s Prayer, asking that the participants focus on what it means to ask for God’s Kingdom to come and for God’s Will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Bible Study/Exploring the Bible**

Read: Exodus 26:6; Numbers 15:16; Deut. 6:1-9; Matt. 22: 24-40; Romans 13:3 and 1 Peter 2:13-14.

Ask: How do we, as Christians talk to our government officials about the evils of human trafficking and how to we ask them to join with us to combat it?

Reflect: The purpose of civil government, now, as it was in Jesus’ day was to protect lives and institute laws for the good of society.

The United States government enacted the 13th amendment to abolish slavery. In addition it has enacted laws, legal protections, victim services, law enforcement, and social services to protect its people.

How can we engage our government officials? How can we harness the legal statutes of our country to combat human trafficking? How can we reach out to persons who are trafficked? How can we reduce their suffering?

As the participants answer these questions invite them create another “body outline.” Invite the participants to go to the “body” and write their reflections on the question: How can we engage our government officials? How can we reach out to persons who are trafficked? How can we reduce their suffering?

Ask participants to write a personal resolution with at least one goal or action.

Synthesis: Come together as an entire group and ask:

What aspect or aspects of trafficking weigh most heavily on your heart or make you most angry? What responses give you hope or energize you?

What’s one thing you can see yourself supporting or doing as a proactive response right away? What’s one thing you’d like to know, support, or do in the future?

Close with prayer.

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Bible Study/Closing Prayer**

As you gather for the closing prayer come to the Worship Center.

Ask each participant to pick up one of the pictures of trafficked persons from the table. Invite them to take the picture home and pray for the person every day. If you continue the Bible Study on Human Trafficking for multiple weeks ask the participant to pray for the person in the photo for the entire session.

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Resources and Videos**

TED talks by Lisa Kristine, Sunita Krishnan, Noy Thrupkaew, and Kevin Bales.

Lisa Kristine, “Photos that Bear Witness to Modern Slavery.”

<https://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_kristine_glimpses_of_modern_day_slavery>

Sunita Krshnan, “The Fight against Sex Slavery.”

[www.ted.com/talks/sunitha\_krishnan\_tedindia](http://www.ted.com/talks/sunitha_krishnan_tedindia).

Noy Thrupkaew, “Human Trafficking is All around You. This is how it Works.

<https://www.ted.com/talks/noy_thrupkaew_human_trafficking_is_all_around_you_this_is_how_it_works>

Kevin Bales, “How to Combat Modern Slavery.”

<http://www.ted.com/talks/kevin_bales_how_to_combat_modern_slavery>

You tube:

25 Painfully Disturbing Facts About Human Trafficking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqCSgCDGNT8>

Human Trafficking: Lives bought & sold - BBC News - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpsxAjuye7I>

**Readings and Resources**

World Council of Churches. Minute on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling. 27 June 2016. WCC Central Committee, Trondheim, Norway.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/2016/minute-on-human-trafficking-and-migrant-smuggling>

UNODC - Human Trafficking - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/

Kristof, Nicholas and WuDunn, Sheryl. *Half the Sky. Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Vintage Books, 2009. Especially p. 3ff “Emancipating Twenty-First-Century Slaves.”

Bible Passages: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) .

Unfair labor practices:

David Barbozajan: “In Chinese Factories, Lost Fingers and Low Pay,” *NY Times*

Jan. 5, 2008.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/05/business/worldbusiness/05sweatshop.html>

Literature

Kristof, Nicholas and WuDunn, Sheryl. *Half the Sky. Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. Vintage Books, 2009.

**Mission and Outreach with Community and Global Partners**

Organizations devoted to Combating Human Trafficking:

Denominational Justice Ministries to Combat Human Trafficking.:

Many denominations work to combat human trafficking. Google their names to find out how to join them in mission and service.

Cents of Relief: Helping victims of Human Trafficking

<http://www.centsofrelief.org>

Apnea Aap: Helping Women WorldWide

<http://apneaap.org>

International Justice Mission

<http://www.ijm.org>