

Human Trafficking

RESOURCES

Worship Aids



This package of worship aids is part of an ongoing project of The Salvation Army Ethics Centre.

We are committed to providing resources for Christian faith communities on issues of moral and social importance.

We would appreciate your feedback regarding these resources, and welcome any suggestions for additional materials or topics.

As you approach worship planning...

Most of us find that both sensitivity and creativity are necessary as we plan and engage in worship. Special sensitivity is required when we bring attention to a particular injustice that weighs down certain people. But themed services also provide opportunity for creative expressions in worship. As you seek to balance sensitivity and creativity, here are some things to consider.

- Personal testimonies are a valued part of our worship culture. However, those who have survived the exploitation associated with human trafficking, especially sexual trafficking, have the need to move past these experiences. Being known as someone who was once trafficked can have implications for one's future. This kind of label may make it difficult to establish a career or working life, to build new and meaningful relationships, to begin a family, etc. One way of being sensitive to those exploited by human trafficking is to limit testimonials to those offered anonymously. Consider using the testimonies available online at <http://salvationist.ca/action-support/human-trafficking/>. For that in-person experience, seek out local professionals experienced in the work against human trafficking, such as social workers, police officers and legislators.
- Take note of the language we tend to use when addressing the injustice of human trafficking. Avoid labels that may diminish or demean a person, such as "prostitute." Remind your congregation that those who are trafficked are more than what they are trafficked for. Instead, speak of those who are exploited by injustice, whose dignity is violated by others.
- Poverty is at the root of much human trafficking. If you have a fellowship time before or after your worship service, make it your goal to serve only Fair Trade coffee, tea and sugar. Fair Trade aims to alleviate poverty, ensure safe working conditions and foster sustainable development. It provides an alternative to trafficked labour. For more information see <http://www.salvationarmyethics.org/fair-trade/>.
- Set up prayer stations around your sanctuary or building and allow the congregation to visit them during or after the worship service. Each station can feature information on a different kind of human trafficking (for sex, labour, etc.) or stories from survivors or those active in working against human trafficking. As an action-based alternative, each station can feature a letter from the TRAFFICK acronym bulletin insert.
- During the sermon, invite people to turn on their cell phones and text a donation to a ministry that addresses human trafficking. This kind of idea is both creative and

justice-seeking! (Inspired by John Ortberg, "Preaching Like a Prophet," *Leadership* Summer, 2010: <http://leadershipjournal.net>.)

- Recruit the quilters in your community to work together on an anti-trafficking prayer quilt. Each square can feature an image or a written prayer. Following the Weekend of Prayer, consider putting the quilt on permanent display or gifting it to a shelter or halfway house. This sort of activity has the advantage of honouring the skills of numerous people in your community.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27 – The first human beings are created in God’s image.

Exodus 3:7-12 – God hears the cries of the enslaved.

Psalms 9 – This psalm of deliverance reminds that the needy will not always be forgotten and hope is not lost for the poor.

Psalms 10 – This psalm expresses the frustration sometimes felt by those who are exploited: Where is God in all of this? We are assured that God does hear their cries and will work out justice for them.

Psalms 140 – The words of one who feels trapped.

Proverbs 31:8-9 – A call to advocacy is issued.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 – Here is recognition of the plight of one who is not comforted.

Isaiah 42:22-23 – These verses offer a description that applies to trafficked persons: robbed, plundered, trapped in holes and prisons.

Isaiah 43:1-7 – God calls all of us by name and returns us from exile.

Isaiah 58: 1-12 – True worship means the establishment of justice for all.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (see also Luke 4:16-21) – Jesus read this text in the temple. It speaks of his mission: to bring good news, healing, liberation, and comfort.

Lamentations 5 – These verses offer a description that applies to trafficked persons. See especially verses 5, 11, 13, and 15.

Amos 5:21-24 – True worship means the establishment of justice for all.

Micah 6:8 – What does God require of us?

Matthew 25:31-46 – The sheep and the goats are judged based on how they have treated the disenfranchised.

John 10:10 – A vision of abundant life for all.

Philippians 1:19 – The power of prayer.

Hebrews 13:3 – A verse that calls us not only to remember those who suffer but also to identify with them.

MUSIC

Some of the following hymns and songs speak of the response we should have to exploitation. Others give us insight into the perspectives of the exploited.

A Voice Was Heard in Ramah (Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, MV 111)

Abide with Me (Henry Francis Lyte, SASB 670, VU 436)

Amazing Grace (John Henry Newton, SASB 390, VU266)

And Can It Be That I Should Gain (Charles Wesley, SASB 283)

Note: You may wish to highlight verse 3. Often these lines are interpreted in a purely spiritual manner. But what if we saw them more literally as Christ working to liberate those imprisoned by human trafficking?

Arise, My Soul, Arise (Charles Wesley, SASB 106)

The Church of Christ in Every Age (Fred Pratt Green | James William Elliott, VU 601)

God of Comfort and Compassion (Doris Rendell, SASB 576)

God Weeps (Shirley Erena Murray | Jim Strathdee, MV 78)

He Came to Give Us Life in All Its Fullness (John Gowans, SASB 274)

Healer of Our Every Ill (Marty Haugen, VU 619)

I Am Weak and I Need Thy Strength (Doris M. Akers, HWB 553)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (Edmund Hamilton Sears, SASB 83, VU 44)

Note: this may seem an odd song to sing outside of the Christmas season, but it speaks of peace and rest for the weary. Consider adding the following two original verses (between the SASB's verses 3 and 4):

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And warring humankind hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife,
And hear the angels sing.*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.*

*O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!*

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love (Tom Colvin, VU 593)

Live into Hope (Jane Parker Huber, VU 699)

May God's Sheltering Wings (Judith Snowdon, MV 214)

O Lord, Whose Human Hands Were Quick (Malcolm Bale, SASB 518)

Out of the Depths, O God, We Call to You (Ruth Duck | Jeeva Sam, VU 611)

People Held in Bondage (Grace Pugh Hubbard, available at the Weekend of Prayer site)

The Saviour of Men Came to Seek and to Save (Albert Orsborn, SASB 527)

Sisters Let us Walk Together (Judith Snowdon, MV 179)

Someone Cares (John Gowans, SASB 238)

There is a Place of Quiet Rest (Cleland B. McAfee, SASB 973)

We Are the Hands of Christ (David Fraser, SASB 851)

We Wonder Why Christ Came into the World (John Gowans, SASB 274)

What a Friend (Joseph Scriven, SASB 645, VU 664)

What Does the Lord Require of You (Jim Strathdee, VU 701)

When A Poor One (J. A. Oliver | Migùel Manzano, VU 702)

When I Needed a Neighbour (Sydney Carter, VU 600)

When Jesus Wept, the Falling Tear (William Billings, HWB 234)

When Painful Mem'ries (Ruth Duck | Sally Ann Morris, MV 74)

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (Frank Mason North, VU 681)

Why Stand So Far Away (Ruth Duck | Michael Mahler, MV 72)

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book (Mennonite Publishing House)

MV – More Voices (United Church of Canada)

SASB – Salvation Army Song Book

VU – Voices United (United Church of Canada)

PRAYER

Use the Human Trafficking Prayer Guide to guide your prayer focus.

Additional prayers and readings can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.wucwo.org/app/MediaFile/File.bin?Pk=281>

<http://www.ipjc.org/links/2012TraffickingPrayer.pdf>

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/womens-issues/pdfs/Human-Trafficking-Awareness-Sunday.pdf>

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/womens-issues/pdfs/The-Sum-of-Justice-for-Human-Trafficking-Middleton.pdf>

SERMON

An appropriate sermon topic is the subject of human dignity.

As an action-based alternative, a sermon could focus on how, through our purchasing choices, we have the power to support trafficked labour or fair trade. For instance, how much in your grocery cart has roots in forced labour? If we had visual reminders of the trafficked labour that is present along the chain of supply, would we change our purchasing habits?

Additional sermon helps can be found at the following websites.

<http://salvationist.ca/docs/Trafficking/letmypeoplego.pdf>

<http://salvationist.ca/docs/Trafficking/humandignityvshumantrafficking.pdf>

<http://salvationist.ca/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/sa-human-trafficking-sermon-outline.pdf>

<http://www.abwmbreakthechains.org/media/Barbara%20Anderson's%20BTC%20closing%20worship%202008%20%20Do%20You%20Hear%20the%20Spirit%20May%2020081.pdf>

http://www.freedomSunday.org/downloads/Sermon_seeds.pdf