



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Aug 13, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: "God's Children are Not for Sale"

Text: "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and the needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9)

Target: "You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again you did not know." - William Wilberforce-Freedom Fighter, 18th century

Take a few minutes to pray and prepare for the weight of your group's conversation. Remind your group that this is a safe place to discuss, reflect, and process this difficult topic.

Question #1: *What initial impact did this weekend's message have on you? Which parts of the message are you continuing to process? Are there any questions you are left with?*

I. The Terms in Trafficking: (A21.org)

A. Definition: It's the illegal trade of human beings.

B. Description: It's the recruitment, control, and use of people for their bodies and their labor.

II. The Types of Trafficking: (through force, fraud, coercion, exploitation by friends & family)

A. Forced Labor: to demand another individual to provide a service rendered:
Ex: Agricultural, Mining, Industrial industries, domestic servitude, sweatshops, or even street begging or vendors.

B. Sex Trafficking: to demand another individual provide sexual activity: Ex: massage parlors, brothels, prostitution, and pornography.

III. **The Targets of Trafficking:**

- A. **Who:** 71% women. 29% men. 25% children.
- B. **When:** Vulnerability: Due to Instability-financially, educationally, culturally, socially.
- C. **What:** Exploitation: deception & coercion to believe that what is being offered will fix their problem. Ex. Promises of employment, education, etc.
- D. **Where:** **Social Media:** Facebook 43%, Snapchat 17%, Instagram 15%, **Gaming**
- E. **How:** Abduction, Grooming or Setting the Hook, Fraud (payback in services), Coercion (threatening violence to family), blackmail (Sextortion),

Question #2: The targets of human trafficking often have some vulnerability that becomes a source of exploitation. *Are there any industries or communities around you (or in our city) that might be vulnerable to human trafficking? Where are they & is there any organization currently serving to bring restoration there?*

IV. **The Trends in Trafficking:** 40.3 million people enslaved right now—more than anytime time in history.

- A. **The Profit:** 150.2 billion per year. (2/3 from Sexual Exploitation)
- B. **The Percentages:** 60-90% of all sex trafficked victims have had a past history with the foster care system. One out of 4 Victims are children. One out of 3 teens on the streets will be lured into sexual exploitation within 48 hours.
- C. **The Places:** 5.4 out of 1000 people are enslaved in the world.
 1. **Leading Countries:** Asia, Africa, Europe, U.S. Arab States
 2. **United States** (200k cases yearly): California-San Diego, Texas, Florida, Nevada, New York.
 3. **Texas:** 1/3 of calls received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline are from Texas.
 4. **San Antonio:** Of the 66 zip codes in San Antonio, 46 zip codes have records of child sex trafficking.

Question #3: With varying organizations currently serving at-risk communities (foster system, immigration, etc.), *what effective contribution can we make to invest in their work? What approach or ministry organization have you seen impact an at-risk community? What were they doing that made them so effective?*

V. The Theology against Trafficking: *“Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. And all the people shall say, “Amen.”* (Deut. 27:19)

A. Why Does Trafficking Exist? *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”* (Jeremiah 17:9)

B. Why does the Bible not condemn Slavery? *“Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.”* (Exodus 21:16)

C. Why Doesn't God Stop Trafficking? Free will, Greater Evil Vs. Lesser Evil

VI. The Truth to END Trafficking: Micah 6:8: *“do justly, love mercy”*

A. Prevention: Education & Awareness of How Trafficking Happens: Luring, Grooming, Isolation, Manipulation, Exploitation.

*August 16th, 6:30-7:30 pm Ransomed Life Presentation.

B. Protection: See & Receive the Vulnerable... Ex. Foster/Adoption

C. Political Pressure & Prosecution: Unify Statewide Human Trafficking Laws with the maximum penalty.

D. Partnership: Life Restored, Ransomed Life, Arms of Hope, STAFO.

Takeaway: You hope to do for one what you hope to do for all.

Question #4: Pastor Ed shared how it takes unified measures of prevention, protection, and prosecution to effectively end trafficking in our community. *What can we do as a group to actively participate in these ongoing initiatives in our city? What first steps can we take this week to find the best area to get involved in?*

Final Prayer Moment: Below is a list of organizations that combat human trafficking and work to restore the exploited. As a group, decide which organization to pray for and how you will pray for their specific needs.

U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) - HSI is the principal investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for investigating transnational crime and threats

Ransomed Life - Faith-based non-profit that educates communities, equips the at-risk, and restores the exploited.

Operation Underground Railroad - Exists to rescue children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation internationally alongside government authorities.

Life Restored - Holistic approach to helping exploited youth and their families recover from the trauma of Human Sex Trafficking.

Arms of Hope - Focused on assisting and extending a loving hand to some of the most disadvantaged children and single-mother families in our culture.

STAFO