



SET FREE

LUKE 4:18

LOVE FIRST

OCTOBER 24, 2021

PREPARATION

STUDY

Look over the guideline for the group discussion and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

PRAY

Pray towards Love First Sunday, that God would raise our awareness for human trafficking and guide us in embodying His heart as we ask how we can be part of the solution. Pray for the members of your group and their openness to God's word.

LANDING POINT

As followers of Jesus, our calling is to love God and love others. Today, we want to equip you to learn about human trafficking and how it's happening here in our state, how we can join the fight to end it and how to free the oppressed.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

OVERVIEW

Did you know that in 2019 there were over 250 victims of human trafficking in the state of Mississippi? Since then, those numbers have tripled and many of those victims have nowhere to go to get help. This data can be alarming, but as followers of Jesus, we need to ask ourselves how we can engage this problem with His heart.

Read the following verses as a group and note what scripture says about how we should approach injustice going on around us:

- o Luke 4:18
- o Isaiah 61:1-2
- o Proverbs 31:8-9

What is your natural reaction when you hear about injustice going on in the world, specifically about the human trafficking going on in our state? Based on the scripture you read as a group, how do you feel like God is calling you to respond differently?



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BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Be Aware

Would you commit to being a community that sees and raises concerns? By learning common signs of trafficking, you can help alert the proper authorities and advocate for victims. Take a few minutes to watch one or both of the following videos and discuss as a group what your next steps could be to grow in awareness:

- o General Awareness: pinelake.ch/signs
- o Parent Awareness: pinelake.ch/parents

Support and Give

Once our awareness has grown, the question is how we will respond. A few ways to step in and respond that were mentioned today are listed below. Take a minute and review these steps as a group:

- o Train to Be a Mentor – Getting involved in mentoring victims of human trafficking.
- o Foster Families – Supporting foster parents who give so much to provide a healthy home for kids facing tough situations.
- o Giving – Giving of professional services to serve victims of human trafficking or making a financial gift to help establish the first shelter in Mississippi for children who have been trafficked.

After reviewing these next steps, are there any that you are interested in learning more about or taking a step in? What fears or hesitations do you have? Are there any steps that our group wants to take together?

(Leader Tip: For more information on how to take these steps encourage your members to text Love First to 575-55)

ENGAGE IN THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE

Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our battle is bigger than what our eyes can see and that there is another realm at play. Your group has discussed how to engage and respond, but would you stop and pray that God would push back darkness with light in the spiritual realm.

(Leader Tip: Before praying as a group ask your group how they feel led to pray regarding what they have learned and heard today)

