



(HUMAN TRAFFICKING)

¹ Why, LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ² In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. ³ He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD. 4 In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. 5 His ways are always prosperous; your laws are rejected by[b] him; he sneers at all his enemies. ⁶ He says to himself, "Nothing will ever shake me." He swears, "No one will ever do me harm." ⁷ His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue. ⁸ He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims; 9 like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait

NOTES:

There's more than enough joy in human life!

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

CONNECT

with self and others:

- 1. What do you know about human trafficking?
- **2.** What might you say or do for someone you meet who has been "human trafficked?"

ENGAGE

the Word.

Our theme this month around campus, in chapel, and in our Grow Groups is the line, "There's more than enough joy in human life." We are exploring tough life topics through biblical lenses during the January national celebration of Human Life Month in America. Some of these topics can be super tough to tackle, can bring up deep wounding, and leave us hopeless. That is not our goal.

The goal for this month is to go deep into the idea that God has designed us in the image of God, given each human inherent dignity and value, and made a way for our eternal salvation and the redemption of all things Jesus Christ. And in the midst of that, our world is filled with evil, and all of our hearts are corrupt. We desperately need Jesus.

One of the topics we want to converse about is human trafficking. Did you know that according to UNICEF (2017), human trafficking is the second most profitable illegal industry in the United States, second only to the drug trade? In addition, sex trafficking is the most common type of trafficking in the U.S. In 2021, 72% of trafficking situations were sexual exploitation (Polaris, 2021). It is reported that there are then more "slaves" today in the world than at any other time in human history. Lord, help us all.

One of the proper responses to human trafficking is lament. The psalmist laments to God for help in situations that seem overwhelmingly evil and beyond our control.

READ Psalm 10



WHEN LIFE IS - TAKEN FROM -YOU, GOD **HEALS YOU**

(HUMAN TRAFFICKING)

to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net. ¹⁰ His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength. ¹¹ He says to himself, "God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees." 12 Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand. O God. Do not forget the helpless. ¹³ Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"? ¹⁴ But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless. ¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out ¹⁶ The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from his land. ¹⁷ You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ¹⁸ defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror, makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

NOTES:

The psalmist confidently prays that God will root out those who are wicked and take advantage of the weak and poor throughout Israel so that they "may strike terror no more" (v.18). Such behavior, David reminds us, will be called into account by God when He returns to earth as the Judge. There is hope, however, whether we have taken advantage of the weak or have been the victim of oppression. The Lord Jesus has compassion and great unconditional love for those oppressed by sin, its effects, and its consequences.

What might you say or do for someone you meet who has been "human trafficked?" Listen. Be present. And remind them: "38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

OUESTIONS:

1. How does it make you feel to know that "There are an estimated 21 million to 45 million people trapped in some form of slavery today?"

2. What part of the psalm of lament might you pray as you hear the devastating numbers of people who are enslaved in our world todav?

3. How might you be called to participate in the emancipation of modern-day slaves today? Pray? Raise money? Raise awareness? Lament? Not sure but open?

SHARE

Apply to your life:

Look up either of these websites to take your discussion further on this topic and share one highlight you thought God needed to show you.

- Is Human Trafficking Happening in the United States? • https://ourrescue.org/resources/education/human-trafficking-in-the-united-states
- 8 Ways to Replace Life Hurts with Hope https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/galleries/8-ways-to-replace-life-hurts-with-hope.aspx
- Slavery Today
 - https://www.endslaverynow.org/learn/slavery-today

PRAYER:

Lord, make me a bold witness of Your saving power to all who face difficulties and hardship. We lament over the evil enslavement of people going on in our world today. Lord, please put an end to modern-day slavery. May the Spirit's gift of joy be theirs, mine, and ours this semester, day by day, in Jesus' name, Amen.

NOTES:



QUESTIONS:

Page 1

1. What do you know about human trafficking?

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Page 2

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Connect at Concordia.edu/enough and @ctxcampusministry throughout the semester!