

The Fight for Freedom

# Leader Guide



The Fight for Freedom

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# Dear Leaders,

This GoBox can be a compelling, convicting, enlightening experience, and we encourage you to consider going through it with your community—whatever that looks like. Maybe you start by asking yourself the question: Who do I want to experience this with? Friends? Family? A small group? Coworkers? A new, specific class at your church, created just for this?

Whether you've lead a group before or not, starting a group with the purpose of talking about the issue of human trafficking might seem daunting. That's why we've created this Leader Guide to act as a companion as you work through The Fight for Freedom with your people.

## What Does a Leader Do?

Your role as a leader is not that of an expert—your role is more like a moderator. As you lead your group through each of the six experiences, you'll be the person who:

- Reads ahead and takes notes to help identify questions or discussion points specific to your group and city
- Gives direction
- Reigns in discussions that are getting off track or that could be potentially harmful
- Gives disclaimers appropriate for the people in your group and their life experiences
- Creates and moderates a group communication platform (text thread, email chain, Facebook group, etc.) to keep group members apprised of dates, times, changes, prayer requests, and so forth
- Organizes any volunteer or “get involved” efforts with your church or community.

## The Fight for Freedom

This guide is not meant to be exhaustive—you'll need to read the book too!—it's meant to be a starting point, summary, and call to reflection and action. We'll also give you space to take notes for each experience on things you want to highlight or topics you might need to give extra care considering the members of your group.

## What's the Best Type of Group for this Experience?

There's really no right "type" of group setting to work through *The Fight for Freedom*, just a desire to understand and fight human trafficking. However, if you don't know exactly who you want to walk through this experience with, you might consider the following group types:

- Bible study
- Discipleship group
- Book club
- Men's church group
- Women's church group
- Youth group
- Special interest group at church
- Human trafficking 101 class

## How Should We Structure Our Group Time?

Meeting structure will look different for every group, so don't get caught up on doing it the right way or the same way as another leader. Instead, focus on the basics. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

- Figure out how often you want to meet. Allow at least one week between each experience so group members have time to read the content and reflect on their own. This also gives you time to read and plan ahead!
- Choose a day and time of week. Consider what's already working. For example, if you're already meeting with a small group on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m., maybe you decide to set aside six weeks to focus on The The Fight for Freedom during that time. Otherwise, poll your group, figure out the day of the week first, then you can focus on the time. It's unlikely that you'll fit into everyone's schedule, so aim for the majority.
- Consider having a virtual option for those who are unable to attend in person or may be out of town during the six weeks.
- Use the Leader Guide to build your structure. Start by giving an overview of the topics covered, then summarize the experience, talk about ways to act (and maybe decide on one to do together), then reflect on all you've discussed. And it's always a good idea to end with prayer.

## What if We Want to Connect with Local Organizations?

Great! We encourage this wholeheartedly. It's one of the reasons we created a digitally downloadable State-by-State Guide. On this guide you'll find at least a few suggestions of organizations within your state that are already fighting human trafficking.

But the best place to start is your church. Ask where they might already have partnerships and how you could get involved there. Your church may even have a specific contact person who works with that organization, in which case it would be best to connect with that person.

If your church doesn't have any local connections with those doing anti-trafficking work but you find one on the State-by-State Guide or through your own research, that's okay too! To get started, consider reaching out via email. Be sure to describe your group (number of participants, general age range, etc.) and see if you're a good fit to work with their organization. If they're open to volunteers, each group member will likely need to fill out a volunteer application before you serve.

As a note, you don't have to set up a time to help these organizations each week, maybe you just set a goal to serve after you've completed all six experiences. Just be cognizant of what will work best for the organization you seek to serve and your group.

# Leader Tips

## Before You Begin

**Pray.** As you begin studying on your own, ask God to open your eyes to what He wants you to see as you learn about the complex issue of human trafficking. Then pray for group members to approach this content with soft hearts and open eyes, that they may see the issue rightly and learn how to best love those trapped in literal bondage.

**Know.** Consider sending out a questionnaire to group members before you begin. You can make this as fun, creative, and in-depth as you like. This should serve to help you get to know your group members as well as how to address specific issues should a group member have experienced something you discuss. You could also gather preferred contact information.

**Read.** Read the experience your group will be discussing ahead of time. Make notes on any warnings you'd like to issue or ideas you'd like to highlight. Be sure to review any online resources for each Experience at this time as well. It could also be helpful to read any Scripture used in the experience in context and in your group's preferred translation.

**Inform.** Make sure group members know ahead of time about any sensitive topics or content to be covered in your next meeting.

**Invite.** Look to people in your church or area who have firsthand experience with trafficking in some way—whether as survivors, family or friends of survivors, or those involved in organizations that fight trafficking. Look at each week's topic and consider inviting them to share during an Experience that fits with their experience or testimony. This will help you and your group connect the words on these pages and items in your GoBox to real life.

## In Session

**Be sensitive.** Review the terms in the Introduction to the The The Fight for Freedom book. Take care with the wording you use, always being respectful of victims and survivors.

**Moderate.** Make sure to moderate discussion as well. While you can't control what group members might say, you can work to shift conversations in a healthier direction if they begin to spiral off topic or toward victim blaming.

**Discuss and Reflect.** Prepare a short summary of topics covered in the experience, or consider using the bullets provided in this guide. Then use the reflection questions given for each experience to lead your group in talking about that week's topic.

**Pray.** Always close your group meetings by praying for the members as well as victims, survivors, and fighters of human trafficking—and yes, the buyers and traffickers too.

**Encourage.** Before the first group meeting and at the end of every meeting that follows, remind group members to read the experience you'll be covering the next time you meet.



# Experience I

Discuss

Topics covered:

- Human trafficking definition
- Sex trafficking overview
- Labor trafficking overview
- Recognizing trafficking
- The church's role

Summary:

- Estimates place over 50 million people in some kind of human trafficking.
- Labor trafficking is more common than sex trafficking, though both are types of human trafficking.
- The church, as “ministers of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18), has a responsibility to take part in God’s restorative work in the world. That includes entering the fight of against human trafficking.

Ways to act:

- Watch *Nefarious*
- Be aware of the signs of human trafficking

## The Fight for Freedom

### Reflect

- What did you learn about human trafficking that you didn't already know? Why did this surprise you?
- How does the Bible speak to the church's role in fighting human trafficking? (Hint: Start with Isaiah 1:17.)
- Look back at the section called, "How Can You Recognize It?" What on this list surprised you? What did you expect to be there? Does anyone you know fit these descriptions?

# Experience 2

Discuss

Topics covered:

- Preparing to pray
- Praying with boldness and for boldness
- Freedom Church Alliance rooted in prayer

Summary:

- We pray and prepare to pray by putting on the armor of God.
- Prayer is a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare, which is part of fighting human trafficking.
- Prayer is what began the Freedom Church Alliance and what empowers its continued work.
- One of our greatest gifts as children of God is our ability to ask God to intervene and change things.

Ways to act:

- Read *Deepening the Soul for Justice* and invite others to read with you. (Consider reading this as a group when you finish *The Fight for Freedom*.)

## The Fight for Freedom

### Reflect

- How does putting on the full armor of God help you not only abide in Christ but also strengthen you to pray bold and confident prayers?
- What about spiritual warfare intimidates you most?
- Which piece of armor is most difficult for you to “put on”? Which is the easiest?
- Why is it important to know prayer began and sustains Freedom Church Alliance’s fight against human trafficking? How does this relate to your own fight against human trafficking?
- How have you been encouraged to enter the fight against human trafficking by praying during this experience?

# Experience 3

Discuss

Topics covered:

- How pornography creates demand for human trafficking
- The ways the profitability of human trafficking affects demand
- The pervasiveness of human trafficking
- How to address demand
- Ways to change the culture of our cities

Summary:

- We begin addressing demand by understanding how far-reaching the issue is, its profitability, the industries it affects, and how ultimately, the issue rests within the human heart.
- We can join other churches to take a stand against human trafficking by fighting demand.
- As the church, we can monitor the condition of our own hearts and break free from sexual sin, push for stricter laws, teach our children empathy and respect for others regardless of gender, and choose to break cycles of abuse in our own families.

Ways to act:

- Watch Exodus Cry's documentary, *Raised on Porn*, about the effects of porn on kids.
- Read over the Defender's statement in our online resources for this session. Speak these words over your life as a commitment to seeking God's righteousness.
- Have coffee with a leader in your church to discuss what you've learned from this experience.

## The Fight for Freedom

### Reflect

- What statistics most deeply affected you during this Experience? Why?
- Name one way you and your family can fight demand based on what you learned.
- Which of the ways to act will you choose to commit to this week?
- What's one way our group could work together to create change in our city?

# Experience 4

Discuss

Topics covered:

- Recognizing trafficking among young people
- Helping young people know their worth and ways to spot signs of grooming in their peers
- Teaching kids and students what it means to honor God with their bodies
- Learning that no matter what we do, we might not be able to protect the kids in our lives  
But God offers grace and redemption, no matter how dark the day
- Recognizing the reality for many kids who have no family
- Becoming a safe place for kids who have no family through volunteer work, child sponsorship, foster care, or supporting foster families

Summary:

- We must teach kids how to know who to trust, how to treat peers of the same sex and opposite sex respectfully, and how to watch for signs of grooming in their friends.
- Teens are often not concerned or fearful for their own safety, but they care deeply about their friends. We can modify our messages with this knowledge.
- In conversations with kids and teens, with is the key word. We cannot talk at them. But when we have open conversations, we create a safe space for them to share, no matter what happens.
- The child welfare system does a lot of good, but they cannot fight the problem alone. God's people must step up and step in to help children in the welfare system.
- The church as a whole should step up to take care of foster kids and support those who are doing so.
- Even an individual acting as a volunteer in a young person's life can make a huge difference.

## The Fight for Freedom

### Ways to act:

- Check in with your church and community to find out the needs of vulnerable children and what you can do to help.
- Know, discuss, and watch for signs of grooming in the young people around you.
- Talk as a family or group about finding our identity in Christ.

### Reflect

- What are some ways our group can encourage kids to honor God in the way they treat others and what it looks like to live out our identity in Christ? (For example, maybe your class/group could partner with a class/group of kids or teens in your church once a month for a fun activity.)
- As a group, consider pairing up to allow parents to practice having these conversations with their kids and others to practice having these conversations with kids in their circle of influence.
- Discuss additional ideas for ways you can get involved in public schools—keep in mind that there may be established ministries in your area.
- How might your group be able to help a foster family in your area? While you won't be able to fulfill every need, see where you can help and pitch in.
- Consider choosing a child to sponsor as a group. Depending on the size of your group, it might only take \$1-2 per person to do this.



# Experience 5

Discuss

Topics covered:

- Raising awareness about the issue of human trafficking through various avenues and programs
- Understanding what labor trafficking is and what we can do to fight it
- Learning what makes something fairtrade and where to buy fairtrade items
- Knowing how to serve with anti-trafficking organizations

Summary:

- No matter the picture we have of fighting human trafficking, we can take action too.
- There are many ways to get involved—you can raise awareness, serve with anti-trafficking organizations, or shop fairtrade.
- If you don't know where to start, start small, start local, and see where your church or other organizations you support might already be involved.

Ways to act:

- Start a book club or share a book or movie with friends to raise awareness.
- Participate in social media campaigns to make people more aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- When you shop, look for ethical brands—most are transparent about their production and labor practices—or items certified as fairtrade.

## The Fight for Freedom

### Reflect

- How can our group work with organizations to shift culture, change laws, and reach out to victims and survivors? What local organizations do we have or what organizations is our church already partnered with? How can we come alongside those?
- What are the methods our group can use to raise awareness about human trafficking? How can we do this in our church, our community, and globally?
- Look at the ways to serve. Which of these options can be done as a group? Consider starting a recurring volunteer relationship or choosing a day to volunteer with one of the local organizations or church partners.
- The next time you purchase a gift or go shopping, consider choosing one of the many ethical brands found on our resource library. Don't worry! An inexpensive ethical option is to purchase second-hand at places like thredUp, Goodwill, or other local consignment stores.

# Experience 6

Discuss

Topics covered:

- Joining the modern-day abolition movement
- Recognizing the example and efforts of those who have come before us in this movement
- Understanding that we don't work alone in the fight against human trafficking

Summary:

- By doing any of the Take the Next Step activities in the book, *The The Fight for Freedom*, you're already a part of the modern abolition movement. Keep going!
- Slavery is a deep-rooted issue in the world and in our hearts—the church has a responsibility to help the world see the value of all human life and freedom.
- Many people have fought against the terror of slavery boldly, but none of them fought alone. We must learn to work together if we want to end human trafficking.
- You don't have to be a leading voice in any field to make a difference—God can use anyone for His purposes.

Ways to act:

- Join the GoBox Movement

## The Fight for Freedom

### Reflect

- What surprises you most out of all the things you've learned about human trafficking?  
What inspires you most to act?
- Name one key takeaway from these Experiences and any action items you've completed as a result.
- Talk about the abolitionists mentioned in this Experience. Were there any you had not heard of? Who stood out to you most? How can our group learn from them and apply their example to the way we engage in the fight against modern-day slavery?

# Be Encouraged, Friends

Thank you for taking the initiative to invite others into this GoBox experience. Thank you for opening up your heart, giving your time, and widening the door for those around you to enter a space of discipleship, conversation, and activism. This cause needs every voice in the kingdom, and you are helping us spread this message further than we'd imagined. We praise God for you!

Now that your group has ended, how do we move forward?

Take a breath. The world of human trafficking is dark and it often brings to us a feeling of heaviness, but fighting human trafficking is hard and holy work. Consider having a fun outing planned like a day at the lake, a meal out together or a backyard cookout, a group hike, or something else that fits your group.

Take note. Consider giving each person a notecard during the last week. Tell them to write out three things on that notecard:

- One thing that really broke their hearts
- One small change The The Fight for Freedom encouraged them to make
- One way they plan to be part of the fight against human trafficking moving forward

Encourage group members to keep this card with them as a reminder of what they learned—and the people who are in bondage long after our class has ended.

## The Fight for Freedom

Continue serving. If you do find a local organization to serve with, consider making it a regular group activity. Or, start with our State-By-State Guide (can be found on website somewhere). If you know a child who needs help, reach out to that child.

Keep praying. Even if the world of human trafficking disappears from your view after this season, it has not disappeared from the world at large. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide group members to figure out what their next step should be. Encourage them to keep praying for victims, survivors, traffickers, buyers, law enforcement, and those who work in aftercare. You could also consider keeping tabs on what's going on in the world in regard to human trafficking and sending out a weekly or monthly prayer points list.

The Holy Spirit will walk alongside us as we all take steps into the battle against human trafficking. And as your group takes next steps, encourage them to press on and offer your support. You never know how the Lord will use your community to impact His kingdom.

And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

HEBREWS 10:24-25