

LIGHT TO LIFE



YOUTH RESOURCE

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FOCUS: God has created all people to be free - moving from darkness to light.

'When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."' (John 8:12 NIV)

'Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'" (Exodus 5:1 NIV)

'There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.' (Exodus 3:2 NIV)



INTRODUCTION

Can you imagine a room in total darkness without a hint of light? How much more dark is it for a ship at sea in the middle of a moonless and stormy night, caught in the midst of total darkness? In the very far distance, the captain of the ship spots what at first seems like a dim light. The more he navigates the ship in the direction of the light, the more the ship is able to sail with confidence, following the brightness of the lighthouse, and in doing so he is prevented from getting lost or heading into danger.

Since the beginning of time, darkness has always served as an opportunity for Christ to shine his power, his presence and his hope.

Today, the world also seems to be in darkness, being plagued by the evil of modern slavery and human trafficking. The stark reality of human trafficking, a global crime that is so often hidden in plain sight, is an evil that continues to grip families, communities and society at large.

What are some of the ways you can see the evidence of darkness in your community?

How are you able to shine your light to alleviate the darkness in your community?



WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Modern slavery is a term that describes the trafficking and exploitation of people for financial gain. People who experience modern slavery are often tricked, trapped or traded into their situation. They are not free to refuse or leave because of threats, abuse, violence, coercion and deception. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, and it occurs in every region of the world.

It is not a crime that is focused on an individual's status, race, gender or wealth. Anyone anywhere

8 facts you need to know about human trafficking in the 21st century



can become a victim. Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes forms of exploitation such as forced labour, forced marriage, human trafficking, the sale of children, sexual exploitation, child soldiers, debt bondage and organ trafficking.

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ACTIVITY: THE DARK WORLD OF DECEIT AND LIES

Modern slavery and human trafficking is a crime based on lies and deception. This in itself gives us an idea of just how dark this world is.

Play this group game to illustrate just how easy it can be to believe a lie. As you debrief after the activity, allow for more time to take a deeper look and have a discussion about how victims of MSHT are often lured by traffickers using lies and deceit.

Follow the link and find Youth Group Activity #5: Two Truths and a Lie

<https://www.leadertreks.org/youth-group-activities-message/>

GAME ACTIVITY QUESTIONS:

- Why is it difficult to discern between a lie and the truth when it comes to MSHT?
- What are some of the things you can do when you suspect that information being shared is untrue?
- What do you think is the meaning of the saying 'If it is too good to be true...'?

BIBLE FOCUS

Exodus 3:1-15

'There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up' (Exodus 3:2 NIV).

We know how earlier on in the Book of Exodus, Moses was once a prince who grew up and lived in Egypt. In Exodus 3:2, we see him taking care of his father-in-law's sheep. It was then that

he came across a unique sight – a burning bush. Curiosity gets the better of Moses and he moves a bit closer to have a look.

The bush is on fire, but not burning up. The angel of the Lord appears in the fire and Moses soon hears God calling him, and he is asked to take off his sandals.

As we read this passage of Scripture, we see how God uses something familiar, the bush, to show his presence and power to Moses. The fact that the bush was burning, but not burning up, gives an immediate indication of God being in control – a sign of God's power.

God called Moses for a specific task – all to fulfil his special purpose in Moses' life.

It was perhaps in the darkness of Moses' life (when he might have had questions about his purpose and place in life) that he saw the burning bush, which at that moment presented him with light enough to see.

ACTIVITY: BURNING BUSH PRAYERS

1. Draw or print out a large image of the bush.
2. Give each person a paper cut-out of a flame.
3. Instruct the youth to write on the flame a need or concern that has caught their attention about some of the challenges they see, where people are vulnerable and at risk of being trafficked, and turn it into a prayer point.

Moses and the Burning Bush – Exodus 3-4
(Bible lesson for teens):

<https://truewaykids.com/burning-bush-teens/#>

4. After everyone has written their prayer point, have the youth group gather around the bush and take turns placing their flame upon it.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What are some of the ways you can see the evidence of darkness in your community?

How are you able to shine your light to alleviate the darkness in your community?

In Exodus 3:7-10, God revealed his plan to Moses, entrusting him with a significant mission. In Exodus 3:11, Moses expressed his doubt and uncertainty, but God assured him of his presence.

How do you respond when God calls you to something outside your comfort zone, especially in the area of modern slavery and human trafficking?

OPTIONAL: LESSON-CLOSING GAME - FLIP-FLOP TOSS

What you need:

- a pair of flip-flops per team
- a bucket or box per team
- a designated throwing line



1. Place the bucket or box a few feet away from the throwing line for each team.
2. Have each team stand behind the throwing line and take turns tossing their flip-flops into the bucket or box.
3. Each successful throw earns one point.
4. Remember how Moses was told to remove his sandals.

CONCLUSION

What Moses did not know at the time was that he was part of God's big plan to free the Israelites from the Egyptians. In the same way, we too can be part of a much bigger plan to bring awareness about and help to prevent slavery and trafficking, as well as to protect and support people who are being tricked, trapped and trafficked. God calls

us to take his message and spread it to others in our families, schools and communities. We know that today, we are called by God for significant tasks, especially when it comes to being a voice and ally to speak and advocate for freedom for people experiencing modern slavery and human trafficking.

CLOSING RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Leader: Dear God, Creator of Heaven and earth, of love and grace. We come together today to pray for the many victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

All: Lord, we cry out to you for justice for all men, women, boys and girls. Give us strength as young people to stand up and speak out for those experiencing marginalisation and vulnerabilities by following your example.

Leader: May our communities see Jesus as the One who showed compassion to all, irrespective of gender, race or culture.

All: We commit to pray and stand together against the violence and injustice of modern slavery and human trafficking, as we let our light shine in the darkness of the world!

Amen.

'Give us strength as young people to **stand up** and **speak out** for those experiencing marginalisation and vulnerabilities by **following** your **example'**