



IJM

MAKE #SLAVEFREE NORMAL

BIBLE STUDY, REFLECTION &
DISCUSSION GUIDE



IJM

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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organisation that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 21 programme offices in 13 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and other forms of abuse against people in poverty. IJM works to rescue and restore victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems.

Learn more at IJMUK.org.

** To protect IJM survivors, we have included photos that do not depict actual victims where appropriate. Consent gathered for all images.*

WELCOME

This reflection guide is to be used alongside **IJM UK's Make #SlaveFree Normal video series**. We encourage you to print it off at home and take notes as you watch the videos, which will help you better understand how we are all connected to forced labour slavery, and will provide tips for you to take action as a consumer, citizen, change-maker, and Christian!

These pages will help you reflect and pray about the issues that have been shared in each week's video, and give you space to set personal goals as you intentionally move towards making compassionate choices to prevent supporting forced labour slavery in supply chains. It will also take you on a journey through the Bible, helping you consider how following Jesus and pursuing justice are inextricably linked.

You can use this resource by yourself or with a group, and we've provided discussion points as well as personal reflections.

For more details on the campaign, visit [IJMUK.org/SlaveFreeSeries](https://ijmuk.org/slavefree)

Thank you so much for standing with us in the fight to Make #SlaveFree Normal – and inviting others to get on board too! We hope and pray that this series stirs a change in the Christian community across the UK as we seek to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God – every single day.



MEET YOUR HOSTS



DEENA RODRIGUES

Deena has worked with IJM in South Asia for three years. She has frontline experience in the fight against trafficking and forced labour. She is now in London working with IJM UK and completing a Masters degree.



JOEL BAKER

Joel is an IJM UK advocate, having first learnt about slavery at university. When he's not championing IJM, you can find him in the studio writing and recording songs under Joel Baker Music.

WATCH

Each week, we will drop a short film with tips on how to shop consciously, info on the issue, inspirational stories of rescue and the inside track on how brands are taking action to stop slavery. **You'll also receive regular WhatsApp updates with tips to inspire you along the way.**

GIVE UP

We are asking you to **give up one product** which is likely to have slavery in its supply chain for the 40 days of Lent. **What will you choose?**

DONATE

Donate the money you would have spent on the on the product you give up during the 40 days of Lent.

SHARE

Raising awareness about the reality of modern slavery is a vital part of ensuring we end it for good. We've put together some brilliant social media posts that we would love you to share online and with your community, friends and family. **You can find them here: <https://bit.ly/2Z3axiP>**

INTRODUCTION

There are more people in slavery than at any other point in history. In fact, 25 million men, women and children are held in forced labour slavery alone, and it affects all of us.

From the smartphone in your pocket to the food in your cupboard and the clothes you are wearing, many of the products we rely on every single day have a high risk of being made by men, women and children who are being held in slavery or are being exploited. Every day, we consume products made by people who are forced to work long hours without pay and basic rights, whilst facing daily abuse.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

Slavery is a brutal and complex problem but, at IJM, we know we can be part of the solution to stop slavery at source.

This resource also includes some short Bible studies which you can do alone or as part of a small group. Feel free to focus on the bits you find most helpful – you may want to spend time digging deeply into a single verse or question or you may want to reflect on everything available. However you choose to engage, we hope and pray you meet Jesus as you journey through it.

The next 40 days could change your habits and change the world.

You can use the pledge card below as a symbol of your personal commitment to this area. You can find shareable versions of this pledge for social media here: <https://bit.ly/2Z3axiP>

DIGITAL PLEDGE CARD

I am committing to do my part to Make #SlaveFree Normal. I'm joining IJM UK in the movement to encourage brands and business to Make #SlaveFree Normal through action and prayer.

Date



**MAKE
#SLAVEFREE
NORMAL**

SLAVERY IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

“Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern-day slavery, but nothing will ever happen until we are.” - GARY HAUGEN, IJM FOUNDER

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.” - GENESIS 1:31 (NIV)

Welcome to the journey!

We're really excited for you to begin this six-week course. You've joined because you're as passionate and hopeful as we are that **we CAN Make #SlaveFree Normal**. Let's get started!

OPENING PRAYER:

God of freedom and hope,

You created the world, and you love all who live in it. As I come to study your word and learn about your world, please help me to imagine new possibilities. Draw near to me, and show me how to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

In this week's video we heard from Founding Director of Walk Free Foundation, Grace Forrest, about the top 'at-risk' products and we were encouraged that consumers really can bring about positive change!

VIDEO NOTES:



QUESTION: According to Ethical Trading Initiative, what percentage of UK companies think there is a likelihood of slavery existing in their supply chains?

BIBLE STUDY:

Read **Genesis 1:26-31** and **Psalm 24:1-2**.

- What do these passages tell us about God?

- What do these passages tell us about humanity and the world?

Read the two passages again, but in a different translation.

- Are there any particular words or phrases that jump out at you? Why?

- Although the world was created good, we do not have to look far to see brokenness and sin. Where do you see the brokenness of the world around you?

- How do these passages relate to the problem of slavery in today's world?

- How can this new understanding shape your prayers and actions moving forward?

“We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.” - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *Letters and Papers from Prison*

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

When and how did you first learn about modern slavery being used in the supply chains of the products you buy?

What do you think are the main hurdles for you and others in taking action to stop slavery and exploitation?

How do we move past any inaction that guilt instills and take positive steps to build a better world?

We know this is a brutal, complex issue, but there is hope. What encouraged you most in this week's video?

CHALLENGE AND GOALS:

This week is all about using your voice and platform to start a conversation and raise awareness. There are many ways to do this in our digitally-connected world - how will you strike up a conversation about this urgent issue? How will you use your voice?

- This week, I will

- This year, I will

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of all creation,

Thank you that when you saw the world, you declared it to be 'very good', and that, despite its brokenness, you have not given up on it. Today, I pray for the 25 million people who are trapped in forced labour slavery – they are not just statistics, but human beings made in your image. Guide me in the coming weeks as I seek to make a difference with what is in my hands.

Amen.

GO DEEPER:

In case you'd like to research this issue further, we've put some additional resources below:

- This blog by Ethical Trade on forced labour in supply chains: www.ethicaltrade.org/blog/understanding-vulnerability-to-forced-labour-global-supply-chains
- IJMUK.org/our-work/forced-labour-slavery
- IJMUK.org/news/consumers-cant-stop-slavery-or-can-they
- Environmentalist and author Ruth Valerio discusses the importance of simplicity as we look to practise the way of Jesus in the 21st century. <https://www.pattern.org.uk/simplicity>



WEEK 2: SLAVERY AND COFFEE

- What does this passage tell us about how we should live as disciples?

Read the passage again, but in a different translation, and then discuss:

- Are there any particular words or phrases that jump out at you? Why?
- Is there anything in this passage that you struggle to understand or align with what you believe about God or your fellow human beings?
- How does this passage relate to the problem of slavery in today's world?
- How can this new understanding shape your prayers and actions moving forward?

“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anaemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.” - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

How do you feel knowing your morning brew could be tainted with slavery or exploitation?

WEEK 2: SLAVERY AND COFFEE

Do you think trafficking and exploitation can ever be stopped? Why/why not?

How can we as consumers and citizens create change?

What did you learn from Esther Hope Gibbs?

CHALLENGE AND GOALS:

Have a look at the coffee beans you are using - whether it's from your favourite café or your home brew - and ask: do you know where those beans come from? What steps are being taken to ensure people harvesting them are paid a decent wage and what steps are being taken to ensure the worst forms of child labour are being prevented?

Which business will you engage with this week to ask what steps they're taking to prevent exploitation? You can download our template [here](#).

WEEK 2: SLAVERY AND COFFEE

CLOSING PRAYER:

Consider what you have learnt today about slavery in the coffee industry and take some time to pray about it. To close, read Psalm 10:12-15 as a prayer:

Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.
Do not forget the helpless.
Why does the wicked man revile God?
Why does he say to himself,
"He won't call me to account"?
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.
Break the arm of the wicked man;
call the evildoer to account for his wickedness
that would not otherwise be found out.

PSALM 10:12-15 (NIV)

GO DEEPER:

In case you'd like to research this issue further, we've put some additional resources below:

- Read this article from Thomson Reuters: <http://bit.ly/ReutersBrazilCoffee>



THE FISHY SEAFOOD BUSINESS

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” - JAMES 1:27 (NIV)

Fish is one of the key industries that has a high risk of slavery in its supply chains. Thailand is one of the world's largest seafood exporters and the world's leading exporter of shrimp. A 2017 survey by Issara and IJM found that 76% of migrant workers in the Thai fishing industry had been held in debt bondage. Victims describe illness, physical injury, psychological and sexual abuse, and even the murder of crewmates. People can be held on board vessels working in remote locations at sea for months or even years at a time. Since 2016, IJM has been working to combat slavery and trafficking in the Thai fishing industry.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of freedom and hope,

You created the world and you love all who live in it. As I come to study your word and learn about your world, please help me to imagine new possibilities. Draw near to me, and show me how to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

VIDEO NOTES:

BIBLE STUDY:

Read **James 1:22-27** and **James 2:14-26**.

- What do these passages tell us about God's character and priorities?

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Why do you believe that companies should care and take responsibility for workers in their supply chains?
What do you think the barriers are?

We know this is a brutal, complex issue, but there is hope. What encouraged you most in this week's video?

Did you know that businesses with a turnover of more than £36million are required to have a Modern Slavery Statement on their website? Look up the Modern Slavery Statement of a business with which you regularly engage.

CHALLENGE AND GOALS:

How can you engage with the supermarkets and companies from which you shop this week?

- This week, I will

- This year, I will

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of grace,

I am sorry for the times my words, actions, and choices have not loved others well. Thank you that there is grace and forgiveness for when I mess up, and you are always willing to forgive me. Please increase my capacity for compassion today and show me how to worship you with all that I do and say. May your word become like poetry written and fulfilled by my life.

Amen.

GO DEEPER:

In case you'd like to research this issue further, we've put some additional resources below:

- Read IJM's 'Not In The Same Boat' Study: IJM.org/thai-fishing-study
- Read this Guardian report on trafficking in Thai fishing boats, here: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/jan/23/thai-seafood-industry-report-trafficking-rights-abuses>



LOOKING AT FASHION'S TRUE COST

“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me, to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” - ISAIAH 61:1, LUKE 4:18 (NIV)

Modern slavery is quite literally woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. Sadly, the clothing industry is one of the biggest drivers of modern slavery and exploitation across the globe. Right now, women, men and children are being exploited to produce what we wear. IJM is continuing to work with survivors and police to find and free victims of bonded labour and forced labour even during the pandemic.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of freedom and hope,

You created the world and you love all who live in it. As I come to study your word and learn about your world, please help me to imagine new possibilities. Draw near to me, and show me how to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

VIDEO NOTES:

BIBLE STUDY:

Read **Isaiah 61:1-6** and **Luke 4:14-22**.

- What do these passages tell us about God's character and priorities?

- What do these passages tell us about Jesus' earthly mission?



WEEK 4: SLAVERY AND FASHION

Read the passages again, but in a different translation, and then discuss:

- How do you think those listening to Jesus in Luke 4 would have felt? Why?
- How do these passages make you feel?
- Are there any particular words or phrases that jump out at you? Why?
- How do these passages relate to the problem of slavery in today's world?
- How can this new understanding shape your prayers and actions moving forward?

“To be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakeable hope of those who expect the dawn.”

- FLEMING RUTLEDGE, *Advent Begins in the Dark*

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

What did you learn from our guest speakers?

WEEK 4: SLAVERY AND FASHION

Is it really possible to stay on trend and shop consciously?

How have your shopping habits changed recently?

Do you wear all the clothes in your wardrobe? When you think of your wardrobe and where your clothes are from, what emotions does it conjure? What motivates your clothing purchases? How much do you know about where and how they were produced?

CHALLENGE AND GOALS:

How will you rethink your clothing habits - what you buy and where you buy it? How will you become more of a conscious consumer? Will you consider hosting a Fashion for Freedom clothes swap with friends? See our resources [here](#).

- This week, I will
- This year, I will

ACTION

- Download Good on You: https://linkin.bio/goodonyou_app The app was developed by a group of campaigners, fashionistas, scientists, writers and developers, united in seeing fashion become more sustainable and fair, including ending human rights abuses within the industry.

WEEK 4: SLAVERY AND FASHION

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of justice,

Thank you that through your son Jesus, you show me your character and priorities. Thank you that he came to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to bring freedom for the captives, and release the prisoners from darkness. Give me courage to follow Jesus' example and give me wisdom for how best to respond to your call on my life.

Amen

GO DEEPER:

In case you'd like to research this issue further, we've put some additional resources below:

- Read the story behind Know the Origin: <https://knowtheorigin.com/pages/about-us>
- Check out Fashion Revolution's transparency index: <https://bit.ly/37L8aTG>



THE DARKER SIDE OF CHOCOLATE

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering." - EXODUS 3:7 (NIV)

Chocolate may be sweet, but hearing that many people are trapped in forced labour to have it produced leaves us with a bitter taste. The truth behind cocoa and sugar is unpalatable, but on this journey, we must learn to lean into uncomfortable issues to create positive change. Awareness must lead to action, then we will see change in the cocoa industry.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of freedom and hope,

You created the world and you love all who live in it. As I come to study your word and learn about your world, please help me to imagine new possibilities. Draw near to me, and show me how to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

VIDEO NOTES:

QUESTION: How is chocolate made?

WEEK 5: SLAVERY IN CHOCOLATE

- How can this new understanding shape your prayers and actions moving forward?

“We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace, and the norms and notions of what just is isn’t always justice.” – AMANDA GORMAN, *The Hill We Climb*

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

How did you feel listening to Kam’s story? How did it make you rethink how we are connected to slavery?

What did you learn in this week’s video that stood out to you?

What did you learn about how IJM works to tackle the worst forms of child labour?

CHALLENGE AND GOALS:

What ‘slave free’ actions can you commit to in the short-term and in the long-run?

When consumers like us speak, companies listen! And in the digital age, we can make our voices heard. Why not tweet your favourite chocolate or treat brand asking them what they are doing to investigate slavery in their supply chains?

- This week, I will
- This year, I will

WEEK 5: SLAVERY IN CHOCOLATE

IDEA:

In the UK, we often celebrate special occasions with chocolate. Think of Easter eggs, Advent calendars, and boxes of chocolate as birthday gifts. Why not look for a more fairly produced alternative this year?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of rescue,

Thank you that you are not distant and cold but that you see and hear the cries of those who are oppressed. Make me aware once again of your presence, your power, and your might. When I feel overwhelmed at the scale of injustice, may I know your Holy Spirit close to me, equipping and guiding me as he did Moses.

Amen.

GO DEEPER:

In case you'd like to research this issue further, we've put some additional resources below:

- Read this article by the Washington Post about cocoa harvested by children: <https://wapo.st/37Ucb8H>
- Or you may be interested in this one by Ethical Unicorn: <http://bit.ly/WhoMadeYourChocolate>



UNTIL ALL ARE FREE

He who was seated on the throne said,
"I am making everything new!" - REVELATION 21:5 (NIV)

We know that ending slavery requires businesses, as well as governments, to take action.

We've seen first-hand that systems can be changed for the better. Laws against trafficking and exploitation can be enforced. People can be freed and protected, and when exploiters are consistently held to account the problem reduces significantly.

We all have to work together to build the future we want, and for the generations that come after us.

OPENING PRAYER:

God of freedom and hope,

You created the world and you love all who live in it. As I come to study your word and learn about your world, please help me to imagine new possibilities. Draw near to me, and show me how to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

Amen

VIDEO NOTES:

BIBLE STUDY:

Read **Revelation 21:1-8**.

- What does this passage tell us about God?

WEEK 6: WHAT'S NEXT?

- How does this passage inspire hope?

- How does this passage challenge you?

Read the passage again, but in a different translation, and then discuss:

- Are there any particular words or phrases that jump out at you? Why?

- Is there anything in this passage that you struggle to understand or align with what you believe about God?

- How does this passage relate to the problem of slavery in today's world?

- How can this new understanding shape your prayers and actions moving forward?

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” - KARL BARTH

WEEK 6: WHAT'S NEXT?

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS:

How did you feel listening to Pachiyammal's story?



What are your hopes and vision for building a future where all are free?

How will you respond today? How can you use your platform and voice for good?

How do we move past any inaction that guilt instills and take positive steps to build a better world?

We know this is a brutal, complex issue, but there is hope. What encouraged you most in this week's video?

JOIN THE IJM FAMILY AS A FREEDOM PARTNER:

From emergency rescue operations with police, to lasting restoration, Freedom Partners help us do it all. Help our frontline staff find people who are suffering from violence and oppression and bring them to safety, bring criminals to justice and walk alongside survivors.

As we finish our 40 days together, we want to invite you to give someone the chance for freedom every month and commit to a world where all are free:

IJMUK.org/give/lent

WEEK 6: WHAT'S NEXT?

“Nothing happens just because we are aware of modern-day slavery, but nothing will ever happen until we are.” - GARY HAUGEN, IJM FOUNDER

CLOSING PRAYER:

Spend some time reflecting on the last six weeks – what you have learnt, how you have been challenged and the encouragement you have found along the way. Use these as springboards for prayer, and then finish with the prayer below:

Almighty God, Creator of the universe,

Thank you that you love justice! Today, I offer back to you my everyday, ordinary life, and ask you to use it to bring your hope, your light, and your restoration to the world. Teach me and lead me as I seek to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you – until everything is made new.

Amen.



THANK YOU
for being part of IJM UK's Make
#SlaveFree Normal this year.