

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Human Trafficking Learning Series  
session 1

# Human Trafficking: our Call to Care and Action



"Consider it. Take counsel. Speak out."  
-Judges ♦9: 30b

# Hello Interested Lutheran Leader!

Welcome to the ELCA Human Trafficking Learning Series, session 1, "Human Trafficking: Our Call to Care and Action." We are excited that you care about human trafficking and want to help others learn about it, too. This resource is intended for Lutheran high school-aged young people and is designed to be led by a Lutheran high school-aged young person or an adult, but can be easily adapted for a variety of audiences.

You may be an expert on human trafficking, but you don't have to be to lead this learning session. The directions are clearly written so all you have to do is read the learning tasks, keep time, and facilitate good discussion when needed.

Similarly, you may be a professional presenter, or this might be your first time leading a group. Always remember these two main things:

1. Learners are responsible for their own learning! Your job is to do the best you can to include input, help the learners make connections between their lives and the content, and encourage questions.
2. Respect your learners. We all know some things! By respecting the fact that your

learners already know something, the door to learning is open and inviting.

We give thanks for your interest and commitment to helping others learn about human trafficking. By raising awareness and engaging in thoughtful dialogue and learning, you are helping this church educate for justice, advocate for change, and lead into the future! If you have questions, and/or would like to share feedback and success stories, please email [justiceforwomen@elca.org](mailto:justiceforwomen@elca.org).

Thank you again for your work and service!

## In one hour, the participants will have.

- Identified their existing knowledge about human trafficking
- Identified key human trafficking facts, and
- Connected their Christian faith to the call to care about and act to end human trafficking



## Learning Leader's Checklist

Your part as the learning leader, teacher, and facilitator begins here.  
Being prepared is the easiest way to enhance the learning!

Check off the boxes on this checklist to make sure you're ready.



suggested Prep Time: 30 minutes

### Materials

- D Scratch paper and writing utensils/markers
- D Watch or clock
- D Three Bibles or passages ♦ John 4: 7-2♦, Galatians s: ♦3-♦s, and Luke ♦o: 2s-37
- D Handouts on pages ♦2-♦7
- D Posted group norms from intro session

### Preparation Tasks

- D Read through the entire session to become familiar with its flow and focus
- D Write the Learning Objectives (page 3) on large paper or dry/wet board.
- D Enlarge and post the provided world map (page ♦6) or use your own.
- D Print and cut apart "Bible Readings Learning Task" sheet (page ♦s). Check note on page g for quantity.
- D Post the "3 Trafficking Facts" sheets (pages ♦2-♦4) on a wall.
- D Print and separate enough "Take Home Learning" sheets (page ♦7) for the group or follow alternative suggestions on page



## Ready to start making change?

From here on, everything written is intended to be read aloud except for text located within brackets and orange boxes, which are notes for you.

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### Opening Hymn

[Time: 3 minutes]

[Selection is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). For more options, try the "justice," "peace" and "community in Christ" sections of the hymnal.]

We will begin with the hymn "We are Called," stanzas ♦ and 2, ELW 72o.

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### Opening Prayer

[Time: 1 minute]

Let us pray:

Teacher God, there are injustices in our world. We know that you call us to love and do justice in all we do. Be with those who are trafficked, and be with us as we start to equip ourselves to serve. Open our minds to learn and our hearts to serve our neighbors. In the name of our role-model and teacher, Christ the servant your Son, Amen.

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### Learning Objectives

[Time: 1 minute]

Today, we will be learning about human trafficking and our call to care and action. By the end of this module, you will have.

- Identified your existing knowledge about human trafficking
- Identified key human trafficking facts, and
- Connected your faith to the call to care about and act to end human trafficking.

## warm-Up: Identifying existing human trafficking knowledge

[Time: 10 minutes]

Learning Tasks:

First, we will do two warm-ups to identify our existing knowledge about human trafficking.

Give complete instructions before setting your learners loose on the task.

1. In a minute, I'll hand out paper. On it, write down the first two words that come into your mind when you hear the term "human trafficking." You will have about 30 seconds to write your words. Then, share your words one at a time. We will go around the room twice to include all the words.

What questions do you have?

[Pause for five seconds]

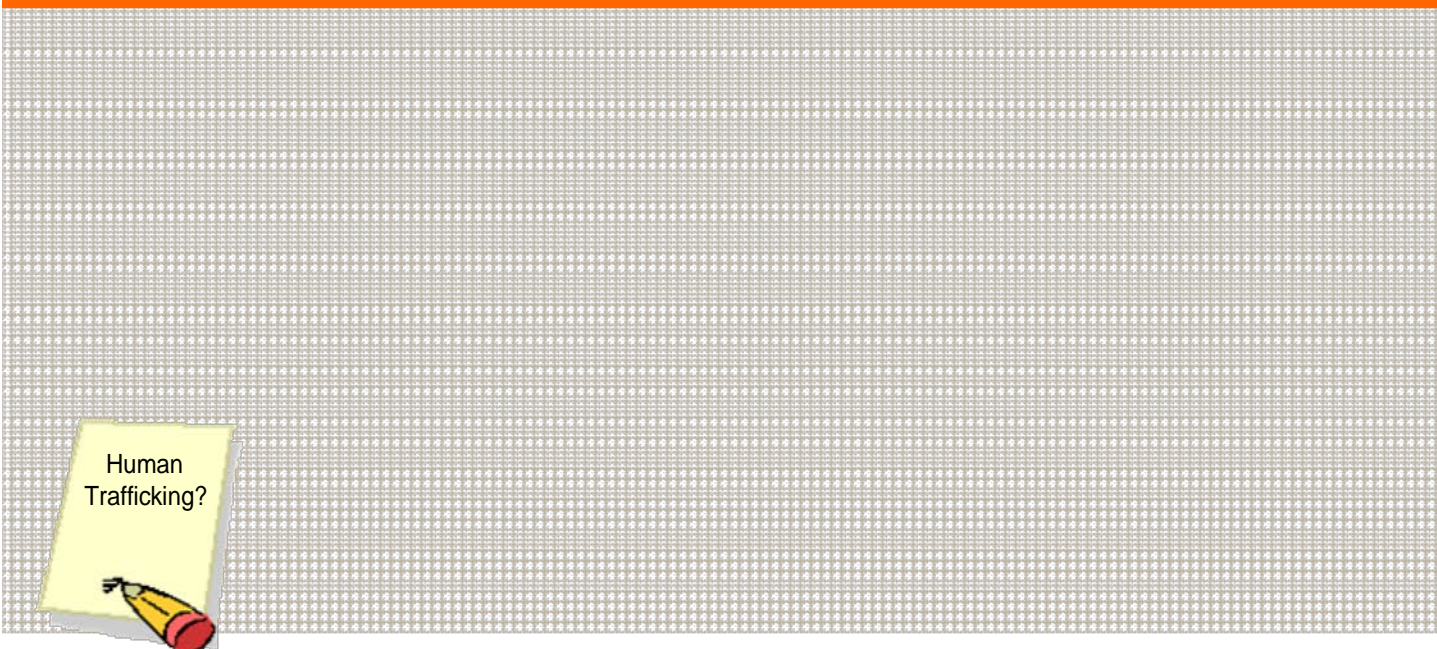
Begin. Remember, you have 30 seconds .

Use time notifications and time checks to help learners pace themselves and keep the learning moving.

Who would like to share one of their words first?

[Wait until someone begins. Allow everyone a chance to share.]

Use this space to record some of the learners' words about human trafficking. This will serve as a reminder of where they started out, what they already know, and help you gauge new learning.



Human  
Trafficking?



2. Next, with a learning partner, discuss where you think human trafficking occurs. Then, on this map of the world, come forward and mark "x's" on the places where you think human trafficking happens. You will have about three minutes to discuss with your partner and mark your "x's" on the map.

### What questions do you have?

[Pause for five seconds.] [When one minute is remaining, give an alert.]

Use "open questions" that require more than a "yes," "no," or one word answer.

For example, we use the phrasing "Who would like to mark their location first?" leaving the opportunity open to all participants, instead of saying, "Sarah, will you go first?"

### Who would like to mark their location first?

We are all correct. Trafficking occurs everywhere in the world, in all countries and regions. Thank you!

### What questions do you have now?

[Pause for five seconds.]

Wait five seconds after asking a question- we'll keep reminding you, too. Give people a chance to think about their response. If no one answers, move on.

## Learning I: Identifying Key Trafficking Facts

[Time: 10 minutes]

Wow! We have quite a bit of pre-existing knowledge about the topic of human trafficking. Now, we will identify three key facts about human trafficking in the world.

Learning Task:

Look at the three questions posted in the room. With the same partner, discuss your answers. Then, place a check mark in the square you think is correct. You will have about 3 minutes to discuss and mark your answer. Afterwards, we will come together and review our answers.

### What questions do you have?

[Pause for five seconds]

Begin, and I will let you know when you have one minute remaining.

[Complete the activity]

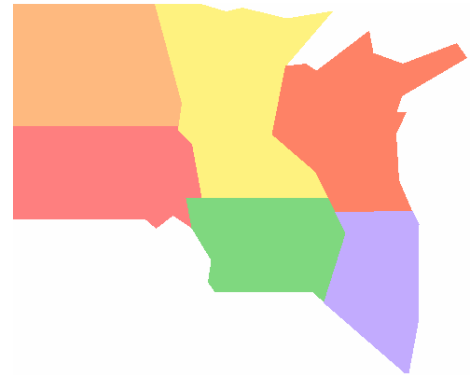


Acknowledge the contributions of your learners as often as possible.  
Thank them for being active in the learning! It helps to know we are being listened to!

Thank you for your contributions. Now, let's review your answers as a group.  
Please feel free to ask questions while we are going through the information.

### Question 1: How many people are being trafficked worldwide at any time?

According to the U.S. Department of State and the organization Free the Slaves, between 12.3<sup>1</sup> and 27<sup>2</sup> million people are being trafficked worldwide at any time.



That's approximately the total population (27 million) of Texas and Louisiana, or the "Midwest" (Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois). Since most cases of trafficking are hidden and hard to track, these numbers are most likely low estimates.

### Question 2: What is the total market value of illegal human trafficking?

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates the total revenue of illegal human trafficking to be \$32 billion.<sup>3</sup> That's roughly the gross domestic product (the market value of all final goods and services) of the country of Guatemala or the countries of Niger, Mali, and Chad combined!



When we think about illegal trades in the world, we might think of drugs and weapons/arms. Human trafficking is currently the second largest illegal trade, just behind drug trafficking, and is the fastest growing illegal enterprise.

<sup>1</sup>"Trafficking in Persons Report 200g." U.S.DepartmentofState. n.d. <<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/123357.pdf>>. 8.

<sup>2</sup>Free the Slaves. n.d. <[www.freetheslaves.net](http://www.freetheslaves.net)>.

<sup>3</sup>"Human Trafficking: the facts." UnitedNationsOfficeonDrugsandCrime. 200g. n.d. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact\\_sheet\\_english.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact_sheet_english.pdf)>.

### Question 3: What percentage of human trafficking victims are women and girls?

According to the United Nations, women and girls account for 70 to 80 percent of human trafficking victims in the world.<sup>4</sup>



Now, what questions or comments do you have?

[Pause for five seconds]

If you don't know the answer to a question, open it back to the group saying, "That's a great question. I don't know. What does the group think?"

## Learning II: connecting faith to care and action to end human trafficking

[Time: 20• minutes]

Now that we have identified what we know and some key facts about trafficking, what does our faith say about trafficking? What are we called to do as Christians about human trafficking?

Finish explaining the learning task before distributing the handout. This will help the learners more fully focus on the directions.

Learning Task:

Split into groups. Each group will receive one of the following Bible passages to read:

- 1 John 5: 7-21,
- Galatians 5: 13-15, or
- Luke 10: 25-37.

Modify the group sizes and quantities to fit your group making sure each passage is covered by at least one group and groups are no larger than three to four people.

Read your passage as a group. Discuss and answer the questions provided for your reading. You will have approximately 10 minutes to read and discuss. Then, your group will share a summary of your verses and discussion of questions and answers.

What questions do you have about this learning task? [Pause for five seconds]

<sup>4</sup>"Human Trafficking: the facts." [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](http://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact_sheet_english.pdf). 200g. n.d. <[http://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact\\_sheet\\_english.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/blueheart/Fact_sheet_english.pdf)>.



## 1 John 4: 7-21

### Learning task

Read 1 John 5: 7-21 as a group. Discuss and answer the questions below. Be prepared to share a summary of your Bible reading and discuss your questions and answers.

### Discussion Questions

- What is the main commandment and call God gives us? What does that mean applied to human trafficking?
- Since God loves us, what does that free us to do in turn?
- How do love and fear relate to one another?
- How did God show us God's love? How can we show God's love to others?



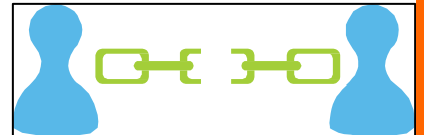
## Galatians 5: 13-15

### Learning task

Read Galatians 5: 13-15 as a group. Discuss and answer the questions below. Be prepared to share a summary of your Bible reading and discuss your questions and answers.

### Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to "become slaves to one another?" How does that happen?
- What are the differences and similarities between being a slave and a servant?
- How is being a trafficked person, a slave, different from the type of slave we are called to be in Galatians?
- What is true service? What does a servant look like?



## Luke 10: 25-37

### Learning task

Read Luke 10: 25-37 as a group. Discuss and answer the questions below. Be prepared to share a summary of your Bible reading and discuss your questions and answers.



### Discussion Questions

- What would the world look like if civil law literally read like the lawyer quotes in Luke: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself?"
- Who is your neighbor? Who are the neighbors of your congregation?
- What are the barriers that kept the priest and the Levite from helping the man? What are the barriers in our lives that might stop us from helping victims of trafficking and those in need in our communities? What allows us and calls us to overcome those barriers?

For your reference, this is an exact copy of what you have to hand to your learners!

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## Take home learning

Join the "Blue Heart campaign Against Human Trafficking" sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) at [www.unodc.org/blueheart/](http://www.unodc.org/blueheart/) or on

**facebook** UNODC Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking." Invite others to join, and why it's important to you!



Sign up for on human trafficking. **Google alerts**

Go to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts). Under "Search Terms," enter "human trafficking," and select the sources you want to receive information from. Then, Google will email you all the top stories about human trafficking.



Visit the following websites to learn more about human trafficking.



- The Polaris Project at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org).  
Founded in 2002, the Polaris Project provides a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery.
- Free the Slaves at [www.freetheslaves.net](http://www.freetheslaves.net).  
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Many branches of the United states government have human trafficking offices.



Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services (Rescue and Restore), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of State (Look for the annual "Trafficking in Persons" (TIP) report on trafficking throughout the world.) **Read about their efforts.**

What are your local government resources?



→ Visit the **ELcA Justice for women website.**

You can learn more about root causes of trafficking and our call to educate, advocate, and lead in making justice for women, girls, and all God's Creation a reality. Additional resources and copies of this resource are available at [www.elca.org/justiceforwomen](http://www.elca.org/justiceforwomen).



## Take Home Learning

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[Time: 5 minutes]

Now that we have identified our knowledge, facts, and our call to act to end human trafficking, here are things we can take home to do a little more learning about human trafficking in our communities and in the world. Take a few minutes to look over the take home learning sheet.

Do one or more of these take home activities, and we will hear about your experience at the next trafficking session. Check the boxes as you complete the tasks at home to track your progress!

What questions do you have? [Pause for five seconds]



You may distribute the provided "Take Home Learning" sheets or you may want to put these on a PowerPoint slide to save paper. You could also email a copy to the learners.

## Closing

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[Time: 1 minute]

Thank you for identifying your previous knowledge about trafficking, learning facts about trafficking, and connecting your faith to the call to act and care about trafficking in the world. I hope to see you back for the next session on the scope, definition, and identification of trafficking on [fill in date of next session].

What final questions or comments do you have? [Pause for five seconds]

## Closing Prayer

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[Time: 1 minute]

Let us pray:

Uniting God, as we go from this place, help us to recognize the barriers in our lives that keep us from fully loving and serving our neighbors as you have called us to do. We admit to our fear and brokenness and acknowledge that you first loved us so that we might live with hope and are brought toward wholeness through your Son, our Redeemer and servant leader, Jesus Christ, Amen.

(Go to [www.elca.org/justiceforwomen](http://www.elca.org/justiceforwomen) for session II)

How many people are being trafficked worldwide at any time?

12.3  
million

23  
million

27  
million

40  
million

What is the total global market value of illegal human trafficking?

**\$17**

billion

**\$29**

billion

**\$32**

billion

**\$50**

billion

What percentage of human trafficking victims do women and girls account for?

40%

70%

80%

87%



## 1 John 4: 7-21

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Read 1 John 4: 7-21 as a group. Discuss and answer the questions below. Be prepared to share a summary of your Bible reading and discuss your questions and answers.

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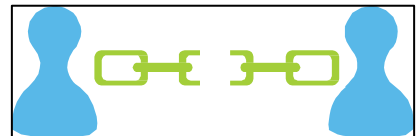
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# Locations where we think human trafficking occurs



## Take home learning

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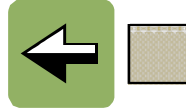
Sign up for **Google alerts** on human trafficking.

Go to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts). Under "Search Terms," enter "human trafficking," and select the sources you want to receive information from. Then, Google will email you all the top stories about human trafficking.



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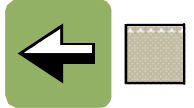
Sign up for **Google alerts** on human trafficking.

Go to [www.google.com/alerts](http://www.google.com/alerts). Under "Search Terms," enter "human trafficking," and select the sources you want to receive information from. Then, Google will email you all the top stories about human trafficking.



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You can learn more about root causes of trafficking and our call to educate, advocate, and lead in making justice for women, girls, and all God's Creation a reality. Additional resources and copies of this resource are available at [www.elca.org/justiceforwomen](http://www.elca.org/justiceforwomen).

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Prepared by Juli Bey and Mikka McCracken,  
Justice for Women program, Church in Society



# **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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