

# Worship Resources



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*Helping women and children to speak out against human trafficking. Use these resources to supplement your worship service, at home during devotions or dinner conversations or in your small group.*

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## Human Trafficking: Khushi's Story

Khushi lives in rural Bangladesh, very close to the border of India. A young teenager, she joined a special group in her small village that is run by a World Renew partner. Using art, drama and debate, her group has been learning about human trafficking, child labour and child marriages – all very real in her community.

While she was well aware of child marriage and child labour, she didn't know that her village was on the route of child traffickers, kidnapping young women to be married, forced into prostitution or child labour. Horrified, she learned that young girls were lured into the hands of the traffickers with promises of a good job or a wealthy marriage. The strategy they used was to befriend a young girl and offer her promises her small village could not. The people in Khushi's village are extremely poor and vulnerable to outsiders. Parents, hoping to increase their income, can also be fooled by the empty promises of strangers and unwittingly surrender their daughters.

The group that Khushi belongs to is eager to raise awareness. As the girls become more aware of the dangers, they share their knowledge. "Our initiatives to prevent trafficking are small," Khushi tells us, "but we can raise awareness among the girls and save lives."

**Forced labour, child marriages, and human trafficking are very real. Here are a few global statistics:**

- 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children
- 4.8 million people around the world experience forced sexual exploitation
- Women and girls account for 99% of people trapped in the commercial sex industry

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## Litany for Social Justice

O God the Father of all people,  
Have mercy upon us  
O God the Son, Redeemer and Saviour,  
Have mercy upon us.  
O God the Holy Spirit, faithful guide,  
Have mercy upon us.

### Forgive us:

When we cast stones of judgment at women trapped in prostitution.  
When we fail to heed your call for mercy for the widow, the orphan, and the oppressed.  
When we ignore the plight of children robbed of their childhood through forced labour or child marriages.

### Give us grace:

To stand up for justice where injustice rules.  
To speak for the child who has no voice.  
To fight for the freedom of sex workers.  
To refuse to buy products made by child labour.

May we open our eyes and see injustice, understanding the abuse of others so we can act with mercy and justice.


May we listen to the cries of girls caught in commercialized sex and trapped by human trafficking, so we can work to free them.

May we recognize oppression, and learn to act with justice.

May we speak for those who have no voice, transforming social norms that lead to injustice.

May we serve in the name of Christ, bringing the dignity and hope intended at the time of Creation.

May we be known for our good works, standing up for the poor and abused.

Two overlapping photographs of women in a rural setting. The top photo shows a woman carrying a basket on her head, and the bottom photo shows a woman carrying a basket on her head, both in a field.

**Focus on God's Word:**

**Isaiah 1:17**

"Learn to do good; seek justice; correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless and plead the widow's cause."

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## Prayer

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end injustice;  
Hear the cries of those trapped in oppression, forced labour, and modern slavery.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end the abuse of women;  
Free women forced into abusive sexual relationships, used as collateral for greed and lust. Release girls forced into marriage before they are women.

We cannot merely pray for the single mother, abused and oppressed;  
we must understand their need, speak when we can influence change, and fight when we can overcome the injustice.

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to resolve power struggles between genders;  
But we must live in equity with each other.

We pray, O God, that you would give us  
the imagination to think outside of the box  
the courage to speak for those with no voice  
the determination to act  
the faith to trust in you for wisdom

May we respond in kindness and action, not merely words,  
And may we become people for grace, reflecting Christ's love.  
Amen