



Say Yes! Life Groups - Week 4 - Say Yes! To Freedom

Opening Question: How did God impact you or speak to you during the message this past weekend?

Be sure to replay the video that was shown during the weekend services. Share the impact this had on you first, then discuss the impact that this may have had on members of your group. Don't force everyone to share but encourage them to.

Starter Questions:

- Think back to when you were a little kid, and someone gave you the dignity of responsibility.
- What was that experience and how did it make you feel?
- Who was that special person in your life?
- Why do you think that they entrusted you and believed in you to be responsible for the mission?

The Gift of Dignity and Responsibility - Notes from a Gary Haugen message at Menlo Church

This is the great joy that our Heavenly Father invites us into as He gives us work to do in the world.

2 things we know

1. God could do the works all by himself.
2. God has chosen us to get His work done in the world by choosing to give us the dignity of responsibility.

In this moment in history, we believe that God has given us the dignity of responsibility to help overcome the evil of slavery in the world.

- More people today are in slavery than at any other time in human history - 46 million people!
- Four times the number of people who were extracted from Africa over 400 years of the transatlantic slave trade.
- \$150 Billion profit annually - more profit than many largest organizations in the world - combined!

Slavery is not a relic of history; it's a larger reality now than ever before.

Slavery is actually more stoppable than ever!

1. For first time in human history, slavery is illegal - everywhere.
2. Slavery has concentrated itself on a mass scale in just a few countries.
 - a. 70% of slaves in world are in only 10 countries.
3. Vaccine that actually stops it:
 - a. Great law enforcement
 - b. Great survivor services

The God of history has placed before us:

1. Unique moment in history with more people in slavery than ever
2. A vaccine that can stop it - Great law enforcement and Great survivor services

Will we be the justice generation that gives freedom to everyone who deserves it?

God gives everyday church-going Christians the dignity of responsibility

Show the following video from link below:

IJM: Fighting to End Slavery. For Good. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKXSKJrOxbl>

What are your reactions and impact that God has place on your heart by watching this?

[Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version \(NIV\)](#)

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

What does this mean in light of human slavery?

3 Ways to get involved:

1. **Pray** - call down the power of God for the work of justice in the world
2. **Advocate** - Raise your voice against modern-day slavery
3. **Give** - Raise resources to pay for the rescue that the poor cannot afford

If time remains, read some of the quotes from Gary Haugen, founder of IJM, and get the group's reactions to them.

“There are 27 million people enslaved in the world today – most of them women and children. Is there any hope for overcoming this human rights crisis?”

"Picture a poor farmer trying to scrape his way out of poverty. Just when the crops have started to show promise, the locusts descend and devour all of that hard work. That's the [locust effect](#)-the way violence impacts the poor in the developing world," he said.

"Where is the Christian ministry when the problem is violence?" he asks.

"God is angry and heartbroken about this horrible problem, and passionate about his people being engaged...because there is no justice and no one to intervene," he said.

"God is clear in Scripture that he hates violence and injustice. If you oppress the poor, you insult their maker. God creates these precious people and gives His son to be tortured and murdered so they can be with him forever, and now some bully wants to degrade and abuse them."

Christians in particular, Haugen, emphasizes, are to respond to God's Biblical command to help those in need.

"There is a unique problem of violence in poor people," he said, "there's a massive number of people suffering from violence in the world, and there's also a massive Biblical mandate to rescue the oppressed defend the orphan and plead for the widow."

Christians can best reinforce the work of IJM in local church communities by honestly exploring the ways day-to-day lifestyles contribute to violence against humanity and work to create communities where the poor are protected.

"Christians provide moral authority for ensuring that justice systems don't just serve a political faction [or] moneyed interests, or are used for extortion or corrupt purposes," he said.

"I hope Christians will recover their role in building communities where the poor are protected from violence. Christians played a wonderful role in sounding the alarm on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They became world leaders, confronting it and engaging it. It showed the church at its best."

Additional Resources:

Vimeo - The Upside Down | Freedom Sunday | Gary Haugen - <https://vimeo.com/235255807>

IJM Website - <https://www.ijm.org>