

SLAVES AMONG US

The Reality of Human Trafficking in the US and Abroad

GRADES 7-9 - Lesson I (Year III, Day 4)

Goal: Students will learn about the growing problem of human trafficking, both domestic and international. They will learn what trafficking victims experience, how to recognize the victimization of a modern-day slave, and how to keep themselves safe from predators.

Lesson:

Human Trafficking is a growing problem in our world today. Many people are not aware that this terrible human rights abuse is happening sometimes in our own neighborhoods. New York has one of the highest rates of forced labor in fields such as domestic service, agriculture, sweatshop and factory work, restaurant and hotel work and in the sex industry. It is important to raise awareness of this tragedy so that we can end human trafficking one and for all.

Watch: [Human Trafficking: It Happens Here](#) & [Human Trafficking Basics](#)

Discussion:

- What is human trafficking? Can you give an example?
- Where does human trafficking take place?
- What kinds of people are vulnerable to trafficking? What are some factors that make them vulnerable?
- Who are the traffickers?
- How do you think trafficking is being combated?

Saint Story: watch [this video](#) to learn about St. Josephine Bakhita, the patron saint of all victims of human trafficking.

Activity: Design a poster or short video to raise awareness about Human Trafficking in your community

Prayer to ask for the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

Additional Resources for Teachers and Parents:

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) Call 1-888-373-7888 or Text* 233733 to report potential human trafficking or ask for help or advice.

For Teachers and Parents: [Project iGuardian](#) offers practical solutions for teens, parents, and educators for keeping kids safe from online sexual predators. Online resources as well as information on booking school presentations and a local tip line. Created by Department of Homeland Security.

For Teachers: Website with [teaching materials for all grade levels on internet safety](#) and keeping kids safe from traffickers. Includes handouts, exercise suggestions and online resources. From the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

For Parents: [Covenant Eyes](#) internet accountability and tracking software for purchase that can help keep kids safe from pornography online.

[Blue Campaign](#) is part of the United States government department of Homeland Security. It “is a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners to recognize the [indicators](#) of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases.”

Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace and the Nashville Dominicans “Virtues in Practice” Program