

## Slaves Among Us

### The Reality of Human Trafficking in the US and Internationally

#### Grades 7-9

**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.

### *Diving into Dignity*

Human dignity is **universal**. This means every person has dignity. Dignity is not based on age, gender, race, status or abilities. No matter how old or young, strong or weak, every person has dignity simply because they are human. Some people deny that certain groups of people possess dignity and, instead, treat them as objects rather than persons. We affirm that every human person is equal in dignity and deserving of equal respect.

*Based on the Human Dignity Curriculum (World Youth Alliance)*

**Lesson:** This discussion about human trafficking and modern day slavery may be brand new to the students, or it may be something they are familiar with from social justice discussions or watching the news. The lessons provided here cover a great deal of information. If your students do not need the introductory materials, feel free to skip ahead to some of the more specific topics.

#### **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?

**Watch:** [Amy's Story](#)

#### **Discussion:**

How is Amy trying to end human trafficking?

What are some of the challenges that someone who has been trafficked faces?

What are ways that each of us can help to “end it”?

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

**Prayer:**

### **Prayer to 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:**

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 tipline. 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.

*Lesson adapted from the plans on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Office of Life, Justice and Peace website*