



## Session 1 Homework

### Part 1: Moving Towards Action

*"...The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire" (Nehemiah 1:3 NKJV).*

Such was the news that came to the king's cupbearer, Nehemiah, about the surviving Jews who lived in captured Jerusalem. A once great city was wrought with destruction, and its people lived as mere shadow of what they once had been.

*"So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven" (Nehemiah 1:4 NKJV).*

And such was Nehemiah's response. It was one of recognition and brokenness. The knowledge of the state of his people and their land evoked a powerful emotional response equitable to the immense grief that accompanies the loss of a loved one.

We too, are faced with a world that has been ravaged by destruction and decay. One of the most tragic ways this is manifested in the modern world is through sex trafficking. We hear startling statistics, see pictures of broken and battered women and listen to stories of little girls in captivity and are emotionally moved. Compassion and anger edge their way to the surface.

But does shedding a tear really make a difference in the lives of the millions of people who are daily affected by the brutalities of trafficking? The indisputable answer is no. Instead, our broken hearts should propel us to do something, to be light in a ravaged world, to take action.

The despair and frustration that Nehemiah felt did not end in paralysis or inaction. Instead, it served as a catalyst to begin a great undertaking: rebuilding the city of Jerusalem and more importantly, restoring the covenant of devotion to the Lord. Nehemiah fasted, prayed, and sought the approval of the king to set out to restore the hope of a crumbling city.

*"The God of heaven Himself will prosper us;" [Nehemiah said], "therefore we His servants will arise and build..." (Nehemiah 2:20 NKJV).*

This week, spend time praying and searching your heart to see if you are in this for action, and if you too are ready to respond to the call of justice and the tugs on your heart. Be honest with yourself and with God about the state of your heart on this issue. Ask yourself the following questions:

- What I am hesitant about in starting this training?
- What holds me back from taking what I learn and implementing it practically?
- Looking at my schedule, how much time do I have to give? Do I need to make adjustments to make it possible for me to actively engage in this issue?

## Part 2: Defining Human Trafficking

27 million, 2.4 million, 30 million.<sup>1</sup> These numbers are each estimates of the number of human trafficking victims worldwide. Such statistics are simultaneously confusing and staggering. They confirm that the issue of trafficking has presented humanity with a problem that is both overwhelming and frustratingly elusive.

Read Numbers 13. This scripture passage also presents a situation in which conflicting accounts were given and discouragement was rampant. Leaders of the tribes of Israel were sent to spy out the land they had long awaited to inherit. “Be of good courage,” Moses told them, “and bring some of the fruit of the land” (Numbers 13:20 NKJV).

While the fruit of the land was indeed abundant, the spies also witnessed the terrifying threat of the land’s occupants – the giant descendants of Anak. They were a people of a “land that devours its inhabitants” and the spies felt small and weak in comparison (Numbers 13:32 NKJV).

Similarly, the immense nature of trafficking is enough to make the issue seem disheartening and insurmountable. What can we possibly do in the face of such widespread evil? How do we approach and cope with the vast differences in statistics and definitions?

The dissenting voices of Caleb and Joshua offer us a picture of hope. They remembered the word of the Lord when He told Moses that He was giving the land of Canaan to Israel (Numbers 13:1 NKJV). While the other leaders of Israel cowered in fear, they rose up in courage and believed in the Lord (Numbers 13:30 NKJV).

Regardless of the vastness of the problem of trafficking and however daunting it may appear, it is nevertheless our call to respond with courage and obedience. Reports and statistics may seek to discourage us, but they do not change the Biblical mandates to care for the poor and oppressed, to set the captives free, to bring life and light to those in darkness, and to administer justice.

We can either choose to respond out of fear or stand on the promises and commands of God, walk in faith and trust in the one who holds the real power and the keys to life.

Consider the following:

- Trafficking is not an issue that is limited to faraway lands – it is happening everywhere and near at hand. Pray for the victims in your area who are being trafficked and that God would give you a spirit of faith to see and believe that transformation can happen.
- Read the supplemental materials for this session and look into statistics and definitions for yourself.
- Look up the scriptures that talk about God’s heart for justice and restoration and how it applies to the issue of trafficking and your role therein.

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<sup>1</sup> The different numbers are estimates from the U.S. State Department (27 million), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2.4 million), and the Walk Free Foundation (30 million).