



May 2017

Trafficking in our Neighborhoods

FOCUS SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61

FOCUS MINISTRY

Butch and Nell Green, CBF field personnel in Houston, Texas

fellowship!

Knowing the Signs, Joining the Conversation

April/May 2017

http://issuu.com/fellowship/docs/april-may17_fellowship?e=1254077/46619223

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

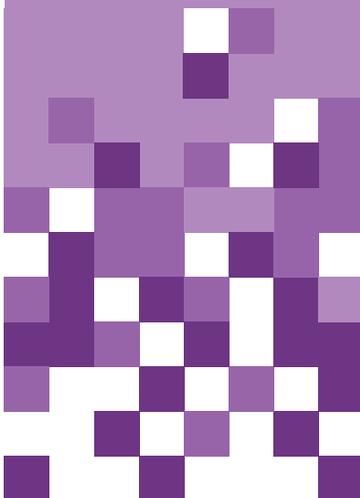
Jeremy Colliver lives in Lilburn, Georgia, with his wife, Laura, and two kids, Blaine and Molly. Jeremy is the minister to families with youth at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

It seems like there is a Starbucks, or some other coffee house, on every street corner, but in Houston, Texas, there are even more illicit massage parlors than there are Starbucks. The workers for these illicit massage parlors are illegally trafficked into these positions. Nell and Butch Green are two CBF personnel who spearhead an anti-trafficking campaign across Texas in destination and gateway cities. The focus of their campaign is sex and labor trafficking, and they partner with many faith-based and nonprofit organizations to stop trafficking. “We have to address issues of gender and poverty. We must address racism.” says Green. “We must look at the systems forcing people into this life. We must realize the Latina girl matters as much as the white girl.”

To provide a visual representation of the issues around trafficking, Green leads groups through the Museum of Modern Day Slavery run by Elijah Rising. Green partners with In Our Backyard and The Landing for hotel and street outreach, because trafficking must be combatted through partnership and changing the attitudes that society has around each of these issues. But it isn’t only groups that can stop trafficking. Having an understanding of what is going on in your neighborhood and checking your personal spending habits is a place to start. The face of trafficking may be different than you realize, so educate yourself as to what trafficking looks like. Dig deeper to see where the goods that you purchase come from and if they are made with child or trafficked labor.

In the 61st chapter of Isaiah (which we learn that Jesus reads when the scroll is handed to him in Luke 4), we read that we are not only “to proclaim liberty to the captives” but also “release to the prisoners.” The scripture reminds us that we are not only to speak out on these issues but to take action as well. Butch and Nell Green are doing so through their partnerships in Houston, Texas.

- **ENGAGE:** Students will use a database provided by the United States Department of Labor to determine how close to home trafficking is to each person.
- **EQUIP:** Students will study Isaiah 61 to remember their calling to “proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.”
- **EXTEND:** Students will learn of ways they can help combat trafficking in their town.
- **MISSION PROJECT:** Students will educate their community about trafficking.





Trafficking in our Neighborhoods

LEARNING GOAL

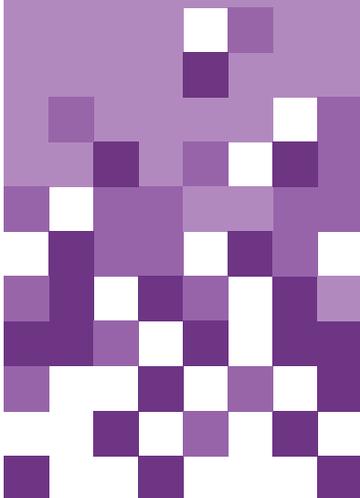
Students will learn about trafficking and its local impact and how they might combat trafficking in their hometown.

GETTING READY

1. Read article about Nell and Butch Green
2. Read Isaiah 61 and become familiar with the text
3. Print out copies of the report “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” from the United States Department of Labor.
www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/
You may also have the students search the site themselves if they are able.
4. Place a large sheet of paper at the front of your meeting space for groups to write on.
5. Gather statistics and facts from the Polaris Project that are shared in the article about Nell and Butch Green.
6. Make enough copies of “Signs of Possible Trafficking” from the Polaris Project website for each person to have one.

ENGAGE

1. As students arrive provide each student a writing utensil and something to write on and challenge them to list everything that they have bought or consumed in the past week. After they have had 2-3 minutes, provide each person with a copy of the “List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor” report, or a link to the report, and have them see what on the list they created was also on the list of goods. When the students have had a chance to compare their two lists, allow the students to share their initial reactions and ask what other goods on that list they consume that they didn’t write down.
2. Share the following quote from Nell Green, “Most of us aren’t paying attention to it, but we must perk up our ears and take note and say we won’t accept it. Everyone has a voice about what we say is acceptable.”
3. Facilitate a discussion with the group by using questions like the following: What items were you surprised about that were on the list of goods produced by child labor and forced labor? How does knowing where your purchases come from help to combat trafficking? Were you aware of how rampant trafficking is around us? How does educating people about trafficking help end trafficking? Why does trafficking have to be combatted through partnerships?



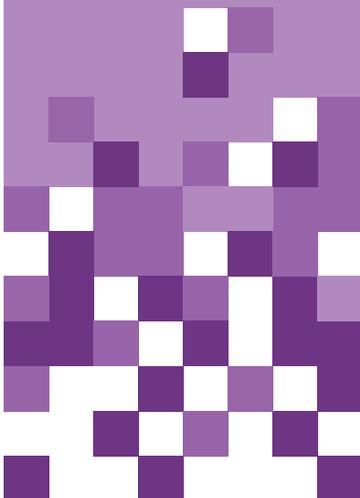


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EQUIP

1. Transition to the next section of the session by creating groups of 3 or 4 and challenge them to list all of the different groups of people that God has called us to minister to. As each group finishes have them send one volunteer to the front of the room to add their groups of people to the larger list of that other groups have listed as well.
2. Choose a volunteer to read Isaiah 61. Instruct the small groups to check off the groups listed in Isaiah 61 that they have listed on their own list. When the passage has been read, see if there are any groups that were listed in Isaiah 61 that didn't make it on the master list. If so, add these groups to your master list.
3. Continue the discussion by asking questions like the following: How is the narrator of the text able to do these things? What do these different groups of people have in common? Nell Green says, "We must look at the systems forcing people into this life." Why do all of the issues have to be addressed for one of them to be addressed? What will happen to the people that carry out what God has called them to do? What will happen in "all the nations" if these things are done? Why does God call us to do these things?

EXTEND

1. Share the following quote from Nell Green, "Survivors [of trafficking] do not always look like we expected." Who do you believe are the people that are trafficked? Share the statistics from the Polaris Project about the people who are trafficked. Are you surprised by any of the groups of people that are on this list?
2. Share the statistic "There are 14.2 million people trapped in forced labor in industries including agriculture, construction, domestic work, and manufacturing." Why are people trafficked into forced labor overlooked? How can their situation be made more apparent to others?
3. Share that Nell Green maintains that sex trafficking is an issue that should be combatted through partnership and reevaluation of societal attitudes. What societal attitudes need to be addressed and changed to combat trafficking?
4. Share the following quote from Nell Green, "Everyone has a voice about what we say is acceptable." Part of this is knowing what to say and what to look out for. Distribute copies of "The Signs of Possible Trafficking" from the Polaris Project's website and allow time for the students to read through them.
5. Challenge the students to create social media posts or hashtags that can be used to share about trafficking.
6. Close with a prayer for those who have been, or are being, trafficked and those who are helping those trafficked be freed.

MISSION PROJECT

1. Raise awareness through education by making posters or creating social media posts.
2. Host a "Human Trafficking 101" class at your church.
3. Talk with your local gas stations and hotels about trafficking and ask if you can post material in the bathrooms about trafficking.