

Explore It FOR LEADERS



PRAYING FOR CHANGE

Exodus 3:7-12 God tells Moses to rescue the Israelites

Order free copies of *True Story*, by emailing youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk. There are **two versions** available: for ages **7-12** and for **13- to 18-year-olds**. Let us know your name, corps and postal address, plus how many copies of each version you would like.

Please place your order by the end of September if you would like it to arrive in time for Anti-Human Trafficking Day on 18 October.

Start It

Can you guess the Bible story? Each one is about Jesus and a powerful answer to prayer. Explain that you are going to read out four clues - one at a time - and the children have to guess the Bible story. 'Buzz in' using the hands up ('raise hand') feature of Zoom as soon as they think they know which story you're describing.

1. Getting late - five loaves - two fish - twelve baskets (Jesus feeds the 5000)
2. Big jars - wedding - water - wine (Jesus turns water into wine)
3. Brother - tomb - strips of linen - come out! (Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead)
4. Mat - roof - four friends - your sins are forgiven (Jesus heals the paralysed man)
5. Lake - boat - storm - Jesus sleeping (Jesus calms the storm)
6. Lepers - ten - one - thank you (Jesus heals ten men with leprosy)

 **Say:** We believe that prayer is powerful, and so The Salvation Army sets aside one Sunday every September as the Annual Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking. It provides an important opportunity to focus on and pray for people caught up in trafficking and for those working with survivors. It's a day when members of The Salvation Army cry out together to ask for God's justice and freedom.

Tell It

Read the following true story about a girl who found herself caught in modern slavery, taken from the *True Story* resource (7-12 version):

Lydia's story

My life has always been tough, but one day it fell apart.

I grew up in a village in Uganda. My dad died when I was little so I didn't get to go to school much. Instead my mum, sisters and I sold beans in the market. It was hard making enough money to live on, but it got worse when my mum got ill. 'How will I support my family?' I asked myself. I was just 16.

A stranger at the market offered me a job in Dubai (a city more than two thousand miles away). He told me I would earn plenty of money looking after two children. It was an exciting opportunity to help those I loved.

But from the start, my experience was a never-ending nightmare! My passport was taken. And to my surprise there were five children to look after, not just two.

Life became very frightening. I was forced to work long days, eat leftovers and sleep on a concrete floor. The family threatened me with violence and didn't pay me. I was alone, and had no way to tell my family.

Share screen: Share the *True Story* card image on screen (see image at bottom of session) and ask the children to use the commenting tools to highlight (underline or circle) one bit of the story that surprised, upset or angered them. Perhaps allocate a different colour to each child. Ask each child why they highlighted the bit they did.

Explain that there was a good end to Lydia's story. Lydia made a friend while she was taking the children out and shared what had happened to her. Her friend told her she must get to The Salvation Army. She escaped one evening and was taken to a safe house, where The Salvation Army looked after her until she could return home to Uganda. At the safe house she was taught craft-making, how to make jewellery and bags, and how to run a small business. Now Lydia can earn enough to support her family at home.

Read out the passage from Exodus 3:7-12. You could show the passage on screen again and ask the children to again highlight something from the story that stood out for them. You might wish to ask the children to suggest how the story about Moses is similar to, and different from, Lydia's story.

Ask the children to suggest what characteristics are needed by a rescuer. They could write words they think of on a blank whiteboard screen. It might be helpful if they think of people who rescue others as part of their job - for example, firefighters, police officers or paramedics. What qualities do those people need to be good at for rescuing people? The children may suggest qualities like physical strength, bravery... Make a list.

Point out that in the Bible verses God says, 'I have come down to rescue them.' And then he says to Moses, 'So now, go. I am sending you.' We may not feel as though we have the qualities we've listed (strength, bravery...), but God still chooses us to help rescue others on his behalf.

Sing It

While you listen to this song, imagine God singing these words over those who are victims and survivors of human trafficking.

'Rescue' by Lauren Daigle
<https://youtu.be/gYR0xP1j4PY>

Action It

Moses asked God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' (v11). We might ask ourselves a similar question: 'Who am I to fight injustice? I don't even know how I'd even start to do that!'

Discuss this with the group. There are other ways to fight injustice - for example: understanding the issues, writing or drawing about it, and teaching others about it.

If you have given out copies of *True Story*, ask them whether as a group they will commit to using this resource to take practical action against human trafficking.

Pray It

Ask the children to use the emoji feature of Zoom to engage in prayer. In response to each prayer, when you say 'Amen', ask them to click on the Heart emoji if they agree.

Father God,

We pray for those who are victims of slavery. Please rescue and restore them. Amen.

We pray for those who battle human trafficking: first responders, activists, advocates, counsellors, social workers, church leaders. Help them be a bright light in the darkness. Amen.

We pray for the vulnerable: children, those who are abused, immigrants, and children in foster homes. Give wisdom to all those who look after them. Protect those at risk from harm. Amen.

We pray that laws will be put in place to stop the exploitation of human beings, including the buying and selling of slave-made products. Give global leaders courage to stand out against trafficking, and give shoppers the compassion to support ethical providers. Amen. Finally, we pray for all God's children to work together to end the evil of slavery and human trafficking. Help us as the Church to rise up, take heart, and pursue justice. Help us to be your hands that heal. Amen.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.



FALLING APART

My life has always been tough, but one day it fell apart.

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Images from *True Story*, Lydia's story