Sermon Prompts: Speak Up

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH JANUARY 2027

Consider using one or both of these scripture passages to build a sermon this January. Together with the PowerPoint slides and conversation cards available at salvationist.ca/speak-up these sermon prompts will help raise awareness in your congregation of the realities of modern slavery and human trafficking.

SPEAK UP FOR AWARENESS, OPTION 1

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;
ensure justice for those being crushed.
Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless,
and see that they get justice.

– PROVERBS 31:8-9 (NLT)

TEXT SUMMARY: Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

MESSAGE FOCUS

Speaking up is how justice begins.
Silence allows oppression to continue.
Speak up and amplify the voices of those who have been exploited.

This passage of scripture explains why it is important to be aware of the experiences of those who are exploited.

SPEAK UP FOR AWARENESS, OPTION 2

Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: “Don’t think for a moment that because you’re in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed. If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?”

– ESTHER 4:13–14 (NLT)

TEXT SUMMARY: If you keep quiet at a time like this... deliverance and relief will arise from some other place.

Perhaps God placed you where you are today... for such a time as this.

MESSAGE FOCUS

Your position, voice, and influence are for this moment. Silence is not neutral. It’s choosing not to speak up.

*Be sure to not imply that victims and survivors have been placed where they are today for such a time as this. Many survivors today, like Esther, do speak up to create awareness, to help others leave and move forward from their exploitative experiences. All of us have the invitation to speak up for the rights of others.



QUOTES FROM CATHERINE BOOTH

To be used with either prompt option.

“You are not here in the world for yourself. You have been sent here for others. The world is waiting for you!”

“If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present.”