

Let my people GO



CHILDREN'S RESOURCE

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FOCUS: God has created all people to be free - moving from darkness to light.

'Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'" (Exodus 5:1 NIV)

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been stuck in a place that you couldn't get out of? If you have, share it with others in the group.

When Sam was a teenager, she was looking after some younger children who were having fun with a big, cardboard cylinder tube, which was large enough for them to play in and climb out of. Sam joined in, but ended up getting stuck in the tube. No matter what she tried, she couldn't get out. The children were too small to help her and so she had to wait until their dad got home, so he could come to her aid. It felt like she was stuck in the tube for a really long time but, thankfully, someone came along who was able to help her, and she was freed.

People who are treated as slaves are stuck in a place that they can't get out of. They might be made to do things that they don't want to do, and sometimes they are hurt by people. They aren't like Sam, who had someone to help her out of the place she was stuck in; often, they don't have anyone they can rely on to help them to freedom. Instead, the people around them make sure they stay stuck.

WHAT IS SLAVERY?

Slavery is when a person is forced to work by another person and for another person. They get paid very little or nothing at all for their work and they do not have the freedom to leave. They are made to stay and work by people who aren't very kind. Often, they are tricked and trapped by the

people who are making them work. Around the world, it's estimated that 49.6 million people are living in slavery and many of them are children your age. Some of these children who are treated as slaves could be the people who make the toys we play with, the shoes we wear, the phones we use or the chocolate we eat. The children don't get to go to school a lot of the time because they are made to work instead.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kind of things might someone feel who is kept as a slave?
- How do you think slavery makes God feel?
- Can you think of some of the things you would miss out on if you were forced to work every day as a slave?
- Can you think about whether there is something that could help people who are treated as slaves?

OUR STORY

In Exodus, the people of Israel had been kept as slaves by Pharaoh and the Egyptians. They were made to work long days, every day. Sometimes they were beaten, and the work they were given was hard and unfair. The Israelites cried out to God and he heard their cries. He didn't want them to live as slaves. He wanted them to be free. So he chose Moses to lead the people out of slavery. To do this, Moses had to go to Pharaoh, who was the King of Egypt, and tell him to let the Israelites go: 'Moses and [his brother] Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go..."' (Exodus 5:1 *NIV*).

Pharaoh wouldn't let the people go, and so God started to perform miracles to make sure Pharaoh knew that Moses was sent by God.

Moses went back again and again and again, until Pharaoh finally let the people go!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- How do you think Moses felt about going to Pharaoh?
- Why do you think God chose a person to lead Israel out of slavery?
- If you were a character in this story, who would you be? Why?
- Why is this story important to remember?

People living in and experiencing freedom is really important to God. It's why he chose Moses to lead the Israelites to freedom. It must have been a pretty scary thing to stand up and go to Pharaoh and say, 'Let my people go.' Pharaoh had more power than Moses, but Moses was courageous and he went and spoke to Pharaoh anyway, because it was the right thing to do. This story is important to remember because it shows us that God hears the cries of people who are hurting, and he will choose people to help lead those stuck in slavery to freedom.

Did you know that one of the reasons the Father sent Jesus into the world was so that people living in oppression and slavery could find freedom in Jesus? He wants all people to be free. As lifelong followers of Jesus, we get to join Jesus in his mission to see people live freely. We can do this by fighting against slavery and helping people to find freedom.

One of the ways we can achieve this is by speaking truth to power like Moses did. If it is safe for you to do so, you might like to write a letter with an adult to your prime minister, president or government, to share your ideas about how to stop slavery where you live. An important way that we can help others is by speaking up when we know that people aren't being treated right.



ACTIVITY

GAME

SHINING LIGHT - HIDE AND SEEK

Find a space or room that you can darken. Grab a stuffed animal, toy or object, turn off all the lights, and 'hide' it somewhere in the room. To mix it up, you can change the number of toys or objects that you hide. Then, together with others in your group, take a flashlight, phone torch or headlamp and go looking for it. Take turns doing the hiding and seeking to keep things interesting.

Slavery and trafficking are often hidden and not easy to see. The light of Jesus helps us to bring light into the dark situations where people are hurt and harmed. Speaking up when people aren't being treated properly also brings light into dark situations.



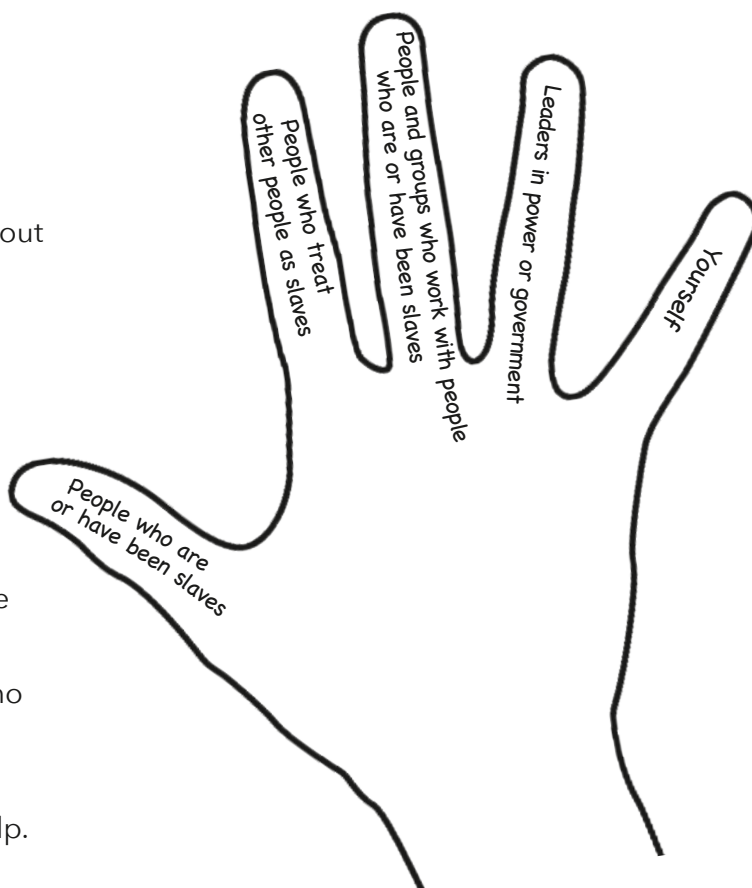
ACTIVITY

CREATE

HIGH-FIVE PRAYER PROMPT

Trace your hand on a piece of paper and cut out the drawing. On each finger write a different theme to pray about, as suggested below.

1. People in slavery and people who have been slaves.
2. People who treat others as slaves.
3. People (like Moses) and organisations working with people who are or who have been slaves.
4. Leaders in governments (like Pharaoh) who have the power to make rules to protect people and prevent slavery.
5. Yourself - ask God what you can do to help.



As you write them on the paper, talk to God about the people represented on that finger. You might like to write your own prayer on the palm of the hand. Decorate your hand drawing and take it home as a prompt to pray with your family. (Alternatively, print the hand provided above, and cut out and decorate that one to take home as a prayer prompt.)