

These Cell Outlines are written by ALOVE UK. They are available each week from our web site. For more information and other cell resources, visit <http://web.salvationarmy.org.uk/alove/resources.asp>

Week #4 Theme:

I Am The Worst of Sinners (1 Tim 1:8-17)

Kit List:

Bibles, pens, paper,

Welcome:

Have you ever gotten something (a gift, let off the hook, etc...) that you totally didn't deserve? How did that feel?

Who is the person most patient with you?

Is there anyone you have very little patience for?

Worship:

We have been talking about human trafficking all month, so we will spend some time praying for the victims. Pray out some Psalms on behalf of the victims of human trafficking. That is, read out these Psalms aloud (take turns, or all together) as if it were the victims – the young women and children being captured, enslaved, and abused around the world – who were praying these prayers.

Pray these words on their behalf:

Psalm 54, 55, 56

You may want to pray them out all at once, or each person find a place in the room and speak them out quietly between themselves and God.

Word:

Before reading out this passage, ask the questions: How do you feel about slave traders, people who traffik humans?

What should be done to slave traders?

Read 1 Timothy 1:8-17.

The list in verses 8-10 includes the only reference in the Bible to slave traders. How much do you know about the slave trade (in history and today)?

Is there anything that all these sins in the list have in common?

Have you personally committed any of the sins in this list?

If yes, do you like the idea of being lumped in the same category with slave traders? Is it fair?

Why does Paul call himself the worst of sinners? Is he is exaggerating?

Can you think of a time when you received mercy? (Might have to define mercy)

Is there anyone who does not deserve mercy? (Perhaps some vicious criminal? Really think about this. Does someone like Hitler deserve mercy?)

Do you know anyone who has been radically transformed from sinner to saint like Paul?

What does God's mercy towards Paul prove, according to vv. 15-16.

Continued...



Witness:

What would you want to say to someone who was trafficking humans for profit? What would you want to tell them about God?

Have everyone write down what they would want to say, and share it with the group. Talk about this exercise with one other person from outside the cell this week.

Action Points:

1. Pray one of the above Psalms each morning this week, as a reminder that we need to stand in solidarity with and intercede for the vulnerable and oppressed.
2. Pray each morning as well for the slave traders, that they would be convicted of their sin, would repent of it, come to know the forgiveness of Jesus, and fight against their former sin.

Useful Resources:

Movie: *Amistad*

Website: www.endchildexploitation.org.uk

Leader's Guide:

If your group still does not know much about human trafficking, keep pointing them to the useful resources for all the cells this month. They contain websites that give a ton of info on the slave trade, and links to lots more sites.

Paul states that all the sins listed are contrary to sound doctrine. There seems to be a wide variety in the sins (from lying to slave trade and murder) but Paul is pointing out that the Law, properly used, shines a light on all kinds of sinful, destructive behaviour.

All of these sins run contrary to the gospel of God, all represent disobedience, and so all lead to judgement and death. The only hope for any of us – not just the slave traders – is the mercy of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul calls himself the chief of sinners because he had been directly opposed to the Way of Christ, a chief persecutor of the followers of Jesus. If he can be given mercy, he says, anyone can.

The dictionary definition of “mercy” is: compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy, or other person in one’s power; compassion, pity, or benevolence.

Thank God he has mercy on us.

ALOVE Connect Question: Are some sins worse than others?

