



PUREHOPE

*a world free*

# PURE JUSTICE JOURNEY

A SIX-WEEK  
SMALL GROUP  
BIBLE STUDY

## INTRODUCTION

The International Labor Organization estimates that there are at least 12 million men, women, and children worldwide toiling in some form of slavery; some experts believe as many as 27 million may be living as slaves. Of that multitude, almost 1.4 million are repeatedly sold and raped in a violent and dehumanizing global sex industry. According to the United Nations, 2 million children *alone* are prostituted in the global sex trade; at least 100,000 children in the United States are victims of commercial sexual exploitation every year.

The reality represented by those statistics begs a number of questions: how should servants of Jesus Christ respond to such brutal injustice? How should we live in such an exploitative world? How can we make a difference?

The answers are found in the Bible, the central theme of which is God's entry into a dark and oppressed world to rescue and redeem a people in bondage. In this six-week journey, you will investigate the injustices of sex trafficking, pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation, and, through prayer, study, and discussion, apply God's Word to cultivate a lifestyle of justice.

Before we begin, you'll need a few things:

1. A group of people who have a heart to seek God and His justice and righteousness
2. A Bible
3. A copy of *Exploited: Sex Trafficking, Porn Culture, and the Call to a Lifestyle of Justice*, a printable version of which can be downloaded at [purehope.net/exploited](http://purehope.net/exploited).

Here's what to expect. Beginning with Session Two, you should read the assigned section of *Exploited* prior to gathering with your group. That pre-reading will form the basis of your discussion and application of the biblical texts. After opening prayer, the session will flow this way:

**REGROUP**—Spend a set amount of time discussing the pre-reading from *Exploited*, as well as other news items, content, and ideas members would like to share on the topic for the week.

**READ & REFLECT**—Read the biblical texts listed for each session. Take time to meditate individually upon the texts, using the questions presented to guide you, and then discuss your reflections as a group.

**RESPOND**—Share ideas about how the texts apply to your life and the world around you, commit to pray for and encourage each other along those lines, and use the action items presented to chart a course for yourself and your group over the coming week, closing your time in prayer.

A final “R”—results—is up to you.

There are the basics. Let's get started.

# SESSION ONE: THE ROOT

## REGROUP

Reread this paragraph from the previous page:

*The International Labor Organization estimates that there are at least 12 million men, women, and children worldwide toiling in some form of slavery; some experts believe as many as 27 million may be living as slaves. Of that multitude, almost 1.4 million are repeatedly sold and raped in a violent and dehumanizing global sex industry. According to the United Nations, 2 million children alone are prostituted in the global sex trade; at least 100,000 children in the United States are victims of commercial sexual exploitation every year.*

Let those numbers sink in. Now, imagine those aren't just numbers on a page; imagine those are real people...because they are. Now imagine you were one of them. Discuss.

*According to the U.S. Department of Justice, between 100,000 and 300,000 children and young people are trafficked into pornography and prostitution every year in the U.S.*

## READ & REFLECT

### 1. Isaiah 59:1-15; Romans 3:21-24

According to Isaiah, why is justice far from us?

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When there is no justice, whose sin is responsible for that dearth?

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What do we learn about God from the statement that it is displeasing in His sight that there is no justice?

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### 2. Mark 7:21-23

Where does Jesus tell us that sin exists and proceeds from?

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How does the list of sins in Mark 7 relate to the injustices you discussed during *REGROUP*?

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**3. John 3:14-16**

How does John 3:16 represent an important part of God's response to injustice?

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**4. Psalm 24:3-4; Colossians 3:5; 1 John 1:6-9**

What type of heart does the psalmist say we need to have?

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How do we pursue that type of heart in light of Colossians 3:5 and 1 John 1:6-9?

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What is the relationship between repentance and confession and the pursuit of justice?

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How important is community in that pursuit?

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Why do we need others to support us and hold us accountable in that pursuit?

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**5. How is justice denied for the millions of victims of sex slavery and exploitation across the globe?**

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**6. Do you see justice turned back in a similar way for people you know? Has it ever been turned back for you?**

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## 7. John 8:36

Fill in the blank: Jesus has come to set me \_\_\_\_\_. If that is so, what should we desire and work toward for others who are in bondage?

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## **RESPOND**

Set aside time this week for prayer—sitting in your room, walking in a park, whatever you like. Ask God to reveal injustice to you—beginning with injustices you see in your own relationships, then those in your community and the world around you. Then, ask how He is calling you to turn those injustices on their head through a pursuit of purity and justice.

Write down ideas that promote just living and bring justice, in whatever measure, to those who suffer unjustly. Share your ideas with the group next week.

Research news articles that demonstrate how pervasive crimes of sexual exploitation and sexual violence (obscenity crimes, child pornography, sex trafficking) are in our society. *Note:* Use extreme caution when searching the Internet for these types of items. Any search with the term “sex” (as in “sex trafficking”) or other phrases (“pornography”) can retrieve harmful, unwanted content. We suggest searching only news sites (rather than the entire Web) or visiting anti-trafficking or anti-pornography sites to learn more. Check out the resource list in *Exploited* for a few suggestions.

Prior to the next session, read chapter one of *Exploited*, “Sex Slavery: Here, Now...Really.”

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for one another and ask God to open your hearts and minds to His Word as you begin this journey together. Pray for the victims of injustice, that they would experience God’s peace and that they would be released, rescued, and restored.

## **DISCUSSION NOTES:**

# SESSION TWO: SEX TRAFFICKING

## REGROUP

In *Exploited*, you read about the nature of sex trafficking as well as its prevalence. As you now know, it is a local issue as much as it is a global one. When addressing any matter of injustice, it is an important first step to recognize that the problem is not just “over there” or a concern of “other people.” We all have a stake in eradicating oppression, because oppression anywhere has an effect everywhere (and likely, as in the case of sex trafficking, to a greater degree than we previously thought).

Spend some time as a group discussing sex trafficking and what new insight you have gained from the pre-reading.

How is sex trafficking defined?

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What is the experience of a woman or child who has been trafficked?

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How does this form of servitude look differently across the globe? Why?

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What factors drive the demand for more trafficking victims?

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## ***THE INJUSTICE OF SEX TRAFFICKING***

- ✓ *Instead of freedom...slavery*
- ✓ *Instead of love...lust*
- ✓ *Instead of protection...exploitation*

## **READ & REFLECT**

### **1. Hosea 4:1-14**

According to Hosea 4:1, what three things are lacking when injustice and oppression are pervasive?

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Why do prostitution, lewdness, and harlotry have such a devastating effect on a society (compare Hosea 4:11 with Genesis 1:27, Leviticus 19:29, and Colossians 3:5)?

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### **2. Matthew 18:5-7**

What do Jesus' statements reveal about the severity of God's response to the exploitation of children and young people?

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### **3. Psalm 72:12-14**

What is promised to the destitute and needy?

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How does God respond to the plight of the afflicted and marginalized?

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### **4. Isaiah 58:6; Proverbs 31:8-9**

Looking again at Hosea 4:14, whom does God hold responsible for the atrocities and violence committed by a coarse, sexualized society?

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Rather than apathy or, worse, indulgence and participation, what is God's expectation regarding our response to such a scandalous evil as sex trafficking?

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## LIVING WATER

*In John 4:1-42, it is remarkable that Jesus even talked to the Samaritan woman at the well—it was totally taboo. It was generally improper in the ancient Middle East for women to speak in public with men who were not their husbands. Moreover, there was great hostility between Jews and Samaritans, and they did not interact with each other, regardless of gender. Jesus' act of simply speaking to this woman, let alone choosing her as a messenger of the gospel, was a strong demonstration to us of how we are to interact with those who are marginalized and living in sexual brokenness, as was this woman.*

*How can we follow Jesus' example of pursuing the afflicted with His good news of freedom, healing, and newness of life?*

## **RESPOND**

Review some of the video content at [purejustice.org](http://purejustice.org) and other websites listed on the "Resources" page of *Exploited*.

Set up an online news alert to receive links to news articles regarding "sex trafficking."

Familiarize yourself with international, national, and state anti-trafficking laws and protocols.

Research local anti-trafficking organizations and alliances and inquire about opportunities to get involved.

Look into and pray about short-term overseas service trips with organizations such as Destiny Rescue or International Justice Mission.

Begin financially supporting an anti-trafficking organization of your choice.

Launch a pureJUSTICE chapter on your campus or in your church.

Read chapter two of *Exploited*, "Pornē + Graphien = Exploitation," prior to the next session.

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for the victims of sex trafficking, that they might be rescued, restored, and brought into communities of love, grace, and healing. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit as to how you and your community can pursue justice for those who are exploited by the commercial sex industry.

# SESSION THREE: PORNOGRAPHY

## REGROUP

As you've learned from the *Exploited* reading, pornography is problematic on many levels. The day in, day out business of the porn industry is filming and photographing commercial sex acts—*i.e.*, prostitution. Those involved are subjected to dehumanizing treatment from which many find it difficult to recover (as it is for those who become addicted to the industry's wares, as our society is beginning to realize). Moreover, the global flood of pornography, by artificially creating and enflaming a distorted sexual desire, drives demand for prostituted women, leading to more sex trafficking victims.

Pornography is more than just a “free speech” issue. It is a form of commercial sex, a form of prostitution, and, arguably, a form of sex trafficking. Whether it is produced in Los Angeles or Bangkok, exploitation, coercion, and manipulation are inherent to it.

The term *pornography*, as you've learned, is derived from the Greek words *pornē* and *graphien*, together meaning “writings about prostitutes.” In the New Testament, the Greek word *porneia* is translated *fornication* or *immorality*; it means “illicit sexual behavior,” and appears at least twenty-five times. Contrary to what some might argue, the Bible has quite a bit to say about porn!

Discuss the nature of pornography, including its meaning and means of production.

What is its effect on a society?

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What are its effects on individuals?

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What is its relationship to sex trafficking?

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*PORNEIA*=IMMORALITY  
*PORNĒ*=PROSTITUTION  
*PORN*=EXPLOITATION

## **READ & REFLECT**

### **1. Genesis 1:27**

What does this verse reveal about the nature of male and female sexuality?

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### **2. Genesis 2:24**

What does the “one flesh” description in communicate about God’s purpose for the sexual union? Its duration? Its participants?

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### **3. Proverbs 7:6-27; Proverbs 5:20-23**

In what ways can the woman in Proverbs 7 serve as a metaphor for pornography?

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What are her attributes?

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What are the attributes of the young man?

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What is the relationship between Proverbs 5:22 and Proverbs 7:26?

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### **4. I Thessalonians 4:3-5**

What is God’s will for us?

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**5. Matthew 5:8**

What does this verse tell us about the effect of impurity, particularly sexual impurity, in our heart?

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**6. I Corinthians 6:16-20**

How does pornography—both its production and the consumption—pervert God's purposes?

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**7. Job 31:1; Psalm 141:4**

How do these verses constitute methods for pursuing purity?

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What do they say about the importance of guarding our eyes, and, by extension, our heart?

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How does Jesus drive that message home in Matthew 5:8?

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**8. Romans 7:21-25; 8:1-2**

What is the nature of the struggle described in Romans 7?

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How does that struggle play out in the sexual realm in our lives?

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Should we expect this struggle to go away completely?

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Does God understand (Hebrews 4:15-16)?

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Does He come to our aid (I Corinthians 10:13)?

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Is there hope (I John 3:3)?

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## ***SUGGESTED READING***

*In his excellent book Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain, neuroscientist, researcher, and Wheaton College professor William Struthers explains how viewing pornography alters the functioning of the male brain, changing how we form memories and make attachments. Struthers exposes false assumptions and casts a compelling vision for a redeemed masculinity.*

## **RESPOND**

Form a group of trusted friends who love God and are of the same gender to discuss the issue of pornography and the negative impact it has on society and your own life, and commit to creating an environment of confession, accountability, support, and encouragement.

Install Covenant Eyes or another accountability/filtering software on your computer.

Research the growing body of literature and research that connects the flood of pornography in society to the increased levels of trafficking.

Familiarize yourself with the history of “obscenity” laws in our country, including the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. California*, to better understand how pornography has been treated from a legal perspective.

Visit websites like [www.socialcostsofpornography.org](http://www.socialcostsofpornography.org), [www.pornharms.org](http://www.pornharms.org), [www.shelleylubben.com](http://www.shelleylubben.com), and [www.thepinkcross.org](http://www.thepinkcross.org), to understand the negative effects of the production and distribution of porn.

Prior to the next session, read chapter three of *Exploited*, “Porn in the U.S.A. (and Beyond).”

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for the men and women ensnared by the porn industry, that they might be freed by God’s love from a life of commercial sex and prostitution. Pray for consumers of pornography, especially those who are caught in the trap of addiction and shame, that they will find freedom and healing from brokenness. Pray that the Christian community, especially the local church, would address this issue with strength, grace, and mercy and help people find freedom and sexual wholeness to live in the hope and joy God desires for them. Pray that our society, including government officials, would recognize the social costs of pornified culture and take steps to properly regulate pornography and thereby protect the vulnerable, especially children.

*“The porn industry is modern-day slavery.”  
Shelley Lubben, former porn performer*

# SESSION FOUR: PORN CULTURE

## REGROUP

The *Exploited* reading for this week describes how pornography in the digital age drives demand for other forms of commercial sex, including sex trafficking: it creeps into the mainstream of a society, into every community, every home, every family, and every life. It is ubiquitous, affordable, accessible, and (seemingly) anonymous; such attributes allow it to shape and distort individuals' views about masculinity, femininity, and the nature of the sexual union. It dismisses serious negative consequences and views behaviors like porn habits and sexting as "just a good bit of fun."

Take some time as a group to discuss those distortions.

In what ways is our culture "pornified"?

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How has hardcore pornography shaped our society's sexual norms over the past few decades?

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How do sexualized attitudes and artifacts that are not necessarily hardcore in nature (pop music lyrics and videos, television and film, clothing styles, interviews and biographies of "porn stars," etc.) dehumanize us?

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How do they particularly exploit the youngest and most vulnerable?

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What should our response be to the fact that the Christian community looks little different from the rest of society in much of our sexual behavior, including consumption of commercial sex?

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What can you do to guard your own heart (Proverbs 4:23) and make a difference in the lives of others?

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In the face of cultural values like convenience and instant gratification, how can we cultivate a lifestyle of discipline and spiritual formation?

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## VOCABULARY LESSON: SEXTORTION

*Sextortion is an increasingly common crime where an individual searches social networking sites for provocative images that have been posted by young women and then threatens or blackmails those young women, demanding that they take more explicit photos or engage in cybersex or physical sexual activity.*

**THINK BEFORE YOU TEXT OR POST!**

### **READ & REFLECT**

#### **1. Genesis 1:27**

If male and female human beings uniquely bear the image of God, what are the effects of their sexual objectification?

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In what ways does this objectification deface that image in the eyes of a lost and hurting world?

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How have the powers of evil gone about defacing that image throughout human history?

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## **2. Romans 1:25**

When men and women turn each other into sexual objects or commodities, how does this constitute a rejection of truth?

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How does this commodification—viewing or using someone for your own pleasure or profit—represent a form of idolatry (see Colossians 3:5)?

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## **3. Ephesians 5:22-33**

What does this tell us about the purpose and design of the sexual union?

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How are love and respect fostered within a committed and exclusive “one flesh” relationship?

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Why does abuse, neglect, or tearing apart of the “one flesh” so profoundly affect our ability to love, respect, and trust?

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Why is faithfulness so important? How about purity?

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## **4. II Peter 1:4-8**

What are the two goals of discipleship set forth here?

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How do the attributes of a follower of Jesus compare to the attributes of the culture around us?

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In what ways are things like self-control and perseverance countercultural values in the Twenty-First Century?

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What resistance or disapproval might we face when we live according to these attributes?

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What does II Peter 1:8 have to say about that?

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### **5. Deuteronomy 10:18; Matthew 18:6**

Why are children and young people so vulnerable to the messages and practices of a sexualized culture?

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What do Deuteronomy 10 and Matthew 18 tell us about God's heart and His response to those who seduce, corrupt, and exploit youth?

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## **COMPROMISE = LOT'S [OF] DANGER**

*Getting too cozy with sexualized culture is a bit like playing with fire; Lot was an example of someone who got burned. He lived in ancient Sodom—a city so vile, unjust, and sexually violent that God brought it to a rather abrupt and unhappy ending. However, Lot hadn't always made his abode in that cesspool. When his herds, and thus his wealth, grew, he departed from Abraham, his uncle, and lived near Sodom (Genesis 13:12). Within no time Lot was living in Sodom (Genesis 14:12), and finally we find him sitting in the gates of the city, a place reserved for people of influence (Genesis 19:1). This steady compromise brought him into ever closer contact with that culture and—even though he was grieved by the perversity (2 Peter 2:7-8)—ended up wreaking havoc on his family and would have cost him his life were it not for God's merciful response to Abraham's prayerful intercession (Genesis 18-19).*

*In what ways does Lot's example speak to us regarding compromise and its tendency to lead us toward increasingly perilous involvement with modern sexualized culture? What must we do in our lives, like Abraham did in his, to be separate even while we pray compassionately for those stuck in the mire (II Chronicles 7:14)?*

## **RESPOND**

Discuss and think critically about the culture you live in and the messages and values that culture promotes, scrutinizing them in light of the teachings of the Bible.

Take stock of the products of the broader culture and assess how they are sexualized or have a sexualizing effect (e.g., the clothing brands and styles you wear, the sitcoms and films you watch, the music you listen to, the images you view or post online, *etc.*).

Consider reducing or simply eliminating contact with aspects of the culture that you find troublesome or that entice you into compromising the purity and integrity to which you are called (e.g., shopping at the mall, spending too much time online, reading rubbishy magazines, hitting social scenes where hooking up is the main goal, *etc.*).

Be faithful to talk to people you love and care about regarding concerns about small or large compromises you see them making with respect to the sexualized culture, always approaching such matters prayerfully with grace and compassion.

Read chapter four of *Exploited*, “A Lifestyle of Justice,” prior to the next session.

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for your society and the community around you. Pray that the Holy Spirit would move in people’s hearts and that they would respond in repentance and devotion to God. Pray that the gospel would penetrate the darkness to expose depravity and lead individuals to knowledge of God and faith in Jesus. Pray for healing for individuals struggling with the pain and confusion of sexual brokenness. Pray for wisdom in navigating through this culture while guarding your own heart and being conformed into the image of God’s Son. Pray for the safety and security of children, who’s hearts, minds, and bodies the Evil One targets for special harm and pain.

## **DISCUSSION NOTES:**

# SESSION FIVE: JUSTICE

## REGROUP

In the *Exploited* reading prior to this session, you were introduced to what the Bible teaches about justice, and what a justice lifestyle looks like. Take a few moments to review the main points of the section by answering the following questions and discussing them as a group:

Who is responsible for maintaining justice?

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What is the relationship between justice and righteousness?

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According to St. Augustine, to what does a concern for justice equate?

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In what ways can sexual activity be either just or unjust?

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How is a pursuit of justice manifested in our daily lives?

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## **THE SIN OF SODOM**

*Sodom has been well-known throughout history for its violent sexual immorality and equally violent destruction, as recorded in Genesis 19. Less well-known is the real cause of its demise: apathy, injustice, and unconcern for the poor (see Ezekiel 16:49). According to Ezekiel, careless ease and indifference to the plight of the oppressed led directly to the sexual abominations Sodom committed, which in turn led to its destruction.*

*In contrast to the destructive fire brought about by Sodom's sexual immorality and willful blindness to injustice, imagine the power of a refining fire that might result from the opposite—a humble and compassionate sexual purity combined with a tenacious and loving pursuit of justice.*

## **READ & REFLECT**

### **1. Psalm 89:14**

What four attributes of God are named in this verse? How are they related?

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### **2. Psalm 146:7**

For whom does the Lord execute justice? As His people, why should we have a similar focus?

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### **3. Proverbs 2:1-9**

This passage is an exhortation to pursue justice and righteousness. What are some of the steps listed in this pursuit?

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In verses 7 and 8, what are we called to “walk in”? What is the path? What does this metaphor communicate to us about the life we must live to truly do justice?

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### **4. Isaiah 1:17**

Learning and seeking speak to a process that extends over time. What does this imply regarding justice?

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This verse speaks of the ruthless as well as the oppressed. Why?

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### **5. Jeremiah 7:5-7**

According to verse 5, in what relationship is justice practiced?

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How is idolatry related to injustice? What is its result?

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### **6. Hosea 2:19-20**

This passage speaks to the manner in which the sexual union of a husband and wife reflects the intimacy the triune God has created and redeemed us to experience with Him. How has He betrothed us to Himself?

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In human terms, what does this passage communicate about the nature of the sexual union between a man and a woman? What are the six attributes of the union? What is its result?

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### **7. Amos 5:24**

What picture of justice does this verse paint? Can it be accomplished by one individual, or might it require a community?

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### **8. Micah 6:8**

What are the three things God requires? How are they related?

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### **9. Matthew 12:17-21**

Matthew makes clear that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophetic passage from Isaiah many centuries earlier. What do we learn about Jesus' nature from this?

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What attributes do we once again see related to justice in the text?

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### **10. Matthew 23:23**

What does Jesus say are the important aspects of the law? Are we to focus on them only? How can hypocrisy undermine justice?

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## **RESPOND**

Discuss the intersection of love, faith, and justice, and how individually and communally we can lead lives that demonstrate God's Spirit working in and through us.

Think critically about the injustices that are brought about by sexual impurity and exploitation in our society, and talk with others about the unjust nature of any sexual activity that treats people as objects for one's own pleasure.

Educate yourself about statistics on sexual violence and exploitation, and about what local groups are doing to raise awareness and take action.

Ponder how you have been unloving and unjust in your own personal relationships, and engage in confession, repentance, and reconciliation in those areas.

Prior to the next session, read chapter five of *Exploited*, "pureJUSTICE."

**Closing Prayer:** Pray that God, Whose throne is founded upon justice and righteousness, would be exalted in your own life and throughout the earth. Pray that the Christian community would be salt and light by hungering and thirsting for justice and righteousness. Pray for the victims of injustice, that they would be healed and set free, and that their oppressors would be prosecuted and terrify no more.

## **DISCUSSION NOTES:**

# SESSION SIX: PUREJUSTICE

## REGROUP

In this last session, we will discuss the application of the vision of pureJUSTICE, which is a community of Christ's servants embracing a justice lifestyle every day.

The call to righteousness and justice are central themes in the Bible. They are integrally related to the salvation that God offers to us in Jesus Christ. If we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, then we are saved from condemnation for our sin and made righteous in Him (Romans 10:9-10). As a new creation, we are empowered to accomplish His will, and to pursue purity and justice in our lives and our world (Philippians 1:11)—a world that Jesus will ultimately fill with complete and everlasting justice (Isaiah 42:1-4).

To live this life, however, we must be diligent, committed, and faithful, as II Peter 1:5-8 makes clear. It is a marathon, not a sprint. That is why the justice lifestyle is at the heart of pureJUSTICE. It is a commitment to a continuing process of praying, understanding, resolving, and engaging that produces the fruit of justice and righteousness. This process builds momentum and increases the richness and effectiveness of our lives. It can only be sustained, though, within community and by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

PRAY CONTINUALLY  
FOR JUSTICE, COMPASSION,  
RESTORATION, AND  
EMPOWERMENT  
—  
ISAIAH 58:6  
1 THESSALONIAN 5:17

ENGAGE IN  
ACTS OF JUSTICE IN YOUR  
HOME, YOUR COMMUNITY, AND  
YOUR WORLD TO OPPOSE THE  
OPPRESSOR, VINDICATE THE  
VICTIM, AND ERADICATE THE  
EXPLOITATION  
—  
PROVERBS 31:8-9  
LUKE 11:42



UNDERSTAND, THROUGH  
INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION,  
BOTH THE INJUSTICE OF SEX  
TRAFFICKING AND THE  
BIBLICAL CALL TO JUSTICE  
AND PURITY  
—  
PROVERBS 28:5  
ROMANS 12:2

RESOLVE NOT TO CONSUME OR  
SUPPORT PORNOGRAPHY OR ANY  
FORM OF COMMERCIAL SEX, THUS  
DECREASING DEMAND, PROTECTING  
THE INNOCENT, AND MODELING  
WHAT IS JUST AND PURE  
—  
PSALM 141:4  
JAMES 1:27

Before reading and reflecting on the biblical texts, take a few moments to discuss as a group your own thoughts on why prayer, understanding, resolve, and engagement are central to this lifestyle:

PRAYER (cultivating intimacy with God):

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UNDERSTANDING (acquiring knowledge to act):

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RESOLVE (fixity of purpose built on repentance and commitment):

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ENGAGEMENT (loving others in speech and action):

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## **READ & REFLECT**

### **1. Isaiah 58:6**

Fasting is the spiritual discipline of abstaining from food as a means of turning our attention away from our own desires and turning our attention to communing with God. What does this verse tell us about God's desire for our prayer and fasting?

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What does it tell us about the power of a sincere fast?

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### **2. I Thessalonians 5:17**

How often are we to pray?

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How is it possible to pray without ceasing?

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### **3. Proverbs 28:5**

What is the starting point for understanding justice?

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### **4. Romans 12:2**

What process is necessary for us to prove and understand what the will of God is?

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Why is it so important for us not to be conformed to this world (see I John 2:15-16)?

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### **5. Psalm 141:4**

What types of “delicacies” are we offered by our culture?

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Do they always appear evil or harmful at first glance?

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### **6. James 1:27**

What are the two elements of “pure and undefiled religion”?

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How are these two elements related?

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## 7. Proverbs 31:8-9

What three things does this scripture call us to do?

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How is remaining silent tantamount to contributing to injustice?

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## 8. Luke 11:42

What two things does Jesus condemn hypocrites for disregarding?

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How are these two things related?

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## **RESPOND**

As you consider how to launch the next stage of your journey—individually and collectively—the following action steps can help you create a sustainable pattern that will shape your own life and the culture around you:

### ***PRAY***

- Commit to “51/58” prayer: 30-days of praying through Psalm 51 for purity and Isaiah 58 for justice.
- Pray for the veil to be lifted from the church’s eyes so we can clearly see the link between pornography and sex trafficking, and collectively take action to seek justice, do righteousness, and minister with compassion to those who have been ensnared by the commercial sex industry.
- Pray that the church would be strengthened to reject a culture of self-indulgence and individualism, particularly with respect to the Internet and media consumption, and would instead embrace a culture of authenticity and accountability (Hebrews 10:23-25).
- Pray for the rescue, deliverance, healing and restoration of victims of sex trafficking in your own community and throughout the world.
- Pray for the brave and dedicated individuals—law enforcement officials, investigators, activists, and volunteers—who work tirelessly in the face of great darkness and danger to rescue and restore innocent women and children across the globe suffering from abuse and exploitation in the commercial sex trade.
- Pray for revival in the hearts and minds of God’s people, that we might hunger and thirst for justice to roll like a flood and righteousness like an ever-flowing river (Amos 5:24), bringing freedom and healing to many caught in spiritual and/or physical bondage.

## **UNDERSTAND**

- Continue to educate yourself biblically and on the issues of pornography, trafficking, and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Review fact sheets and resources available on the Rescue & Restore campaign webpage ([www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)) provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Read books like *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children* by Linda Smith and *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It* by Victor Malarek to better understand the exploitative nature and social costs of commercial sex.
- Utilize the resource list provided in *Exploited* to go further in your understanding and engagement.

## **RESOLVE**

- Persevere in a commitment to repentance, confession, and authentic community that provides the encouragement and accountability needed to do justice with “clean hands and a pure heart” (Psalm 24:4).
- Install Covenant Eyes or other monitoring software and use the activity logs to go further in your relationships with accountability partners regarding porn, sexual content, temptation, and the need to keep ourselves “unstained by the world” (James 1:27).
- Reject self-indulgent sexualized culture and do not partake of its “delicacies” (Psalm 141:4).

## **ENGAGE**

- Educate others about the harm of commercial sex—pornography, stripping, prostitution, trafficking.
- Get involved with others who are engaged in anti-trafficking work, locally or globally.
- Start a pureJUSTICE chapter on your college campus or in your area (visit [purejustice.org](http://purejustice.org) for more info).
- Contact representatives of your local Rescue & Restore coalition (list available at [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)) and learn how you can get involved.
- Volunteer at local shelters/programs for survivors of trafficking/prostitution.
- Support state and federal legislation criminalizing human trafficking and allocating funds for victim services.

**Closing Prayer:** Give God praise for Who He is and what He is doing in your midst. Pray that He will be glorified in your life and the communal action of your small group. Ask that He would pour out His Holy Spirit and water the seeds that have been planted in your heart through this Bible study. Pray for guidance and wisdom as you launch from here and become a living testimony of God's righteousness, justice, love, and grace.

# NOTES

WHAT I'VE LEARNED THROUGH THIS STUDY:

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ACTION STEPS I WILL TAKE:

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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