

Worship Ideas/Prayers for a Focus on Human Trafficking

Call to Worship (responsive)

What is the chief end of human kind?

To Glorify God and to enjoy God forever!

We gather to worship and praise God with our whole hearts.

We also gather to be challenged by God's Word to preach good news to the poor.

To proclaim freedom for the prisoners,

Recovery of sight for the blind,

Release for the oppressed.

Now let us worship God and listen for God's call in our lives to "Set Them Free"

Call to Confession

There is much for which we need to ask God's forgiveness – the sins we commit knowingly as well as those we do unknowingly. Let us join our voices together in humility before God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We are guilty Loving God, of passing judgment upon those who appear different from us – those with different lifestyles, those who've made poor choices in their lives, those who abuse and oppress others. Forgive us of our judgmental behaviors and give us hearts that are softened by your love and grace, so that we may show love and grace to all your children wherever they may be found. For it is in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

(Sing the first verse of *Amazing Grace* as a hymn of assurance)

Hear the good news that comes to us – God's grace is abundant and free. Through the love of Jesus Christ we are found and made free. Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Illumination

Open our ears, eyes, and hearts, O God, so that we can hear clearly you speaking to us words of justice and love. Plant your life-giving word into our hearts so that we will be equipped to leave this time of worship and show your love and grace to all.

Prayers of the People

O God, we pray for all the innocent people who are in bondage as a result of greed and oppression. Make your presence known to them, and

Set Them Free.

We pray for the farm workers, laboring in agriculture fields under extreme working conditions with little water, food, and the basic necessities of life. Make your presence known to them, and

Set Them Free.

We pray for the innocent children around the world sold into slavery because of poverty and hardship. We pray for parents and family members who feel like there is no other way. We pray for those who've been tricked into believing this is the best decision. Make your presence known to them, and

Set Them Free.

We pray for children who are commercially exploited as prostitutes or domestic slaves. No child should ever endure such a nightmare. Make your presence known to them, and

Set Them Free.

We pray for the traffickers all around the world. We pray that you would open their hearts and minds to the cruelty and abuse they are causing. We pray for those who benefit from the acts of slavery committed by the traffickers. We pray for the johns, the pimps, the brothel owners, the agriculture industries, and all others who benefit from slave labor. Make your presence known to them, and

Set Them Free.

We pray that we might be more aware of the realities of oppression in our daily lives. Make us sensitive to the foods we eat, the clothes we wear, the electronics that we enjoy everyday, as well as other modern conveniences. Move us into action so that we can do our part to make your presence known, and to

Set Them Free.

Hear our prayers on behalf of your innocent children all over the world. We pray that you would truly set them free. Amen.

Amen.

Benediction

Go out into the wonderful world of God's creation to share with all people the love and hope that you have experienced during this time of worship. Do whatever you can to end suffering and to bring hope and healing into the world. And may the God of all love and grace give you peace. Amen.

