

# Collective Worship

## Secondary Assemblies Day 3

# Freedom Week SECONDARY

Just Enough UK and The Clewer Initiative

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### Aims:

- Provide pupils with examples of modern slavery in the UK
- For pupils to understand that everyone is valuable and worth rescuing
- To realise that individuals are the most important thing to remember in modern day slavery scenarios

### Ask the pupils: What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is when someone controls your life, your liberty and your fortune.

1. forced to work – through coercion, or mental or physical threat;
2. owned or controlled by an 'employer', through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse;
3. dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property';
4. physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

The other day I was told a real life story. A young woman ran away from a house, in a country she did not know. She asked for help from strangers, she was in danger, she was worried. She had no idea what the outcome would be, she did not know that she would be believed by the police, she had heard that the police in this particular country could be dangerous, even threatening. She was told she would be arrested for trying to tell her story. For trying to escape.

What was she escaping from?

Strangely, a better life. She had been promised a job and good pay. An Aunt and a family friend had arranged for her to be a nurse. She had taken the opportunity. Yet now, as she ran through street after street, no documents, no shoes and no idea where she was going, the dreams of being a nurse were long gone. Now, her focus was survival. She kept running. She stayed on the streets for 6 months before finally being found by an anti slavery foundation. There, she was safe and she was rehabilitated.

### (Modern) slavery

'sleɪv(ə)rɪ'

noun: modern slavery

1. forced to work – through coercion, or mental or physical threat;
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Where was she?  
In the UK.

She had been held in modern slavery

If there are so many people who are trapped in modern slavery, is this woman worth worrying about?

**(Click to first picture)** Now I'm going to tell you about the woman in the nail bar. The woman who does your sister's nails 'so well'. The woman who has been trafficked from Thailand, with a dream to work in a nice nail bar. Maybe she even had a dream to open her own nail bar one day. But she has been taken and she and her family threatened so that she will sit and do the nails of people who don't know. They don't know that she has been trafficked. She won't say anything, she is scared and doesn't think anyone will believe her. Maybe you should ask her, is she okay? Where do you live? What's it like? Make polite conversation with her, because you might find out some important information. But she may not speak English very well. It might be hard to tell - whether she is there by choice or by force.



**(click to next picture)** What about the farmers in the fields? The men and women picking fruit and vegetables for our UK farms. We rely on European labour for this... right? And they get paid well, they can build houses in their home countries... right? Sometimes. Definitely. This system is fine, but sometimes someone exploits that, and tricks someone into thinking they will be treated well, paid well. But that's not the case. Those workers go home to a crowded house with sometimes up to 10 people in a room. The house doesn't get cleaned, they are not allowed out past certain times. They are not paid the minimum rate, and are told they owe more money than they even earn. They end up in a cycle of slavery, unable to see a way out.

**(click to next picture)** Take a moment to think about the person working in a house, not allowed to leave of her own accord. You have seen her through the window, but never seen her leave. You're not sure how old she is, quite young. She is left in the house throughout the day, she thought she was coming to the UK for a good office job. She didn't think that she would be treated like this. It was never the plan for her.

Unfortunately, she is not alone. In the UK there are an estimated 10,000-13,000 modern day slaves. Many estimates are much, much higher than this.

## Collective Worship:

Let's look at it this way.



The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

~Mark 12:31

**4** "Suppose a farmer has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5** And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6** and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' **Luke 15:4-6**

I want to look at this verse in regards to modern slavery, as it can be used to look at those who are lost in many ways. This verse helps us remember that each and every person is important. This week we have been looking at how people can be tricked and pressured into becoming slaves.

In Mark, Jesus said 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.' **Mark 12:31**

We should love everyone. We will always love those in slavery, we will always see them as people, not as slaves. Not as someone who does a job, but as a person with thoughts, beliefs, hopes and dreams. They are not a statistic on a page, but a real being who has ended up in a tragic situation. It is easy to go home and forget about it, leave the helping to the professionals. But unfortunately, despite all that the professionals do and all their powers, they cannot stop modern slavery without the help of everyone in the world. One person can make such a massive difference, but even more than that - people make the difference, collective groups.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

~Galatians 5:1

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Even if there is just one person in modern slavery. It is enough reason for us to work together and try and rescue them. We can stand together and not allow this for anyone in the world.

### Freedom Prayer

**Voice 1**  
On this holy ground of worship  
In this sacred place of prayer  
We have heard the voice of freedom  
Crying 'Let my people go.'

**All**  
Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

Now everyone will recite the freedom prayer.

## Freedom Prayer

### Voice 2

Where chains restrain God's chosen children  
Where humans trade in kin and skin  
May our words pass on your promise  
Of a land where liberty is sweet

### All

Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

## Freedom Prayer

### Voice 3

Give us faith to face the Pharaohs  
Who line their pockets from this plague  
Send us as salvation's sponsors  
Willing servants; slaves to love

### All

Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

