

A Freedom Sunday Prayer

Gracious Father in Heaven,
We come before you with the evil of human trafficking heavy on our hearts.

We cry out to you, O God of mercy and compassion and justice.
May Your Kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

We pray for every person in harm's way...

For every person living under the yoke of oppression and exploitation.
We pray you would break their chains.
Provide a way out of their circumstances and give them the courage to take that brave step.
May they experience physical, emotional, and spiritual freedom.
And may they experience joy, peace, and abundant life;
A life that comes from knowing You and Your unfailing love.

We pray for the oppressors...

For those who harm others
because of their own greed, sexual gratification, or need for power.
For those who would desecrate another person's God-given individual dignity.
Bring conviction to their hearts.
Help them to see the worth and dignity of the people they have been oppressing.
May they choose a new way of living.
May they too be restored by Your grace.

We pray for those lured by pornography...

May they see the destructiveness it causes in their own lives and in society.
Help them to find avenues of escape and communities of healing.
Give them the courage to seek help.

We pray for a change in culture.

May the commodification of human beings
for one's own pleasure no longer be tolerated.
May the roots of trafficking be revealed.
May the factors that fuel both the supply and the demand for trafficking be clearly seen.
And may society collectively cry, "no more".

And gracious Father, we cry out to you as Your followers.

We are eager to be Your hands and feet in this world.
Forgive us for every time we have closed our eyes to injustice.
Forgive us for knowingly or unknowingly contributing to the evil of human trafficking.
Teach us what it means to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with You (Micah 6:8).

May we practice James' description of true religion:
"taking care of the widows and orphans in their distress" (the exploited)
while living an upright life not ensnared by the lies of the evil one (James 1:27).
Show us the ways that you are calling us to be light and love in the darkness.
Show us how to be a refuge to the brokenhearted.
Help us to be a voice for justice in this world.

You are the God of justice and the God of mercy.
Break every yoke and set the captives free, we pray.
May Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.