

A woman's profile is depicted within a large, expressive brushstroke that transitions from light blue at the top to dark blue at the bottom. The background is a solid, vibrant blue. The text is overlaid on this graphic.

FREEDOM | SUNDAY

THE HANDBOOK
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



UNTIL
ALL
ARE FREE

GOD USES HIS CHURCH TO BRING TRANSFORMATION
AND JUSTICE TO A HURTING WORLD. WE BELIEVE GOD
HAS A PLAN TO STOP VIOLENCE AND END SLAVERY—
AND THAT PLAN IS US.

ON **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**, CHURCHES ACROSS THE
COUNTRY ARE DEDICATING THEIR SERVICE TO HELP END
SLAVERY AND HEAR GOD'S CALL FOR JUSTICE.

WE'RE CALLING THIS DAY **FREEDOM SUNDAY**.



IJM

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IJM

SLAVERY STILL EXISTS

We find ourselves in a time of great opportunity and responsibility.

MORE THAN 45 MILLION HUMAN BEINGS ARE LIVING IN SLAVERY TODAY.

But every day, a growing movement of people good will are taking action to bring about the end of slavery. On the front lines, IJM is seeing the fruits of faithfulness with each and every survivor rescued from slavery.



WHAT IS FREEDOM SUNDAY?

FREEDOM SUNDAY IS AN INVITATION

for churches everywhere to step up as leaders in the global movement to end slavery.

In answering God's call to defend the widow, the orphan, and the oppressed, the Church belongs at the forefront of the movement to end modern-day slavery.

YOUR ROLE

Your participation in Freedom Sunday means that more people will learn about what it takes to end slavery—and more will commit to defending children and families in need, no matter how long justice takes.

Your role: Extend the Freedom Sunday invitation to your pastor. Ask if your church would dedicate Sunday, September 24 to helping end modern-day slavery.

RESOURCES

This toolkit is a resource with everything you need to know in order to bring

Freedom Sunday to your church. Watch the website and your email inbox for everything else you need to make it a success, including:

- Sermon
- Scripture notes
- Videos
- Posters
- Presentation resources
- Digital assets for the service

The movement to end slavery is stronger because of you and your congregation. **On behalf of all of us at IJM, thank you for being part of this movement. Thank you for working with us—until all are free.**

— *Your Freedom Sunday team*

freedomssunday@ijm.org



**EXTEND THE FREEDOM
SUNDAY INVITATION TO
YOUR PASTOR.**

ASK THEM IF YOUR
CHURCH WOULD
DEDICATE **SUNDAY,**
SEPTEMBER 24
TO HELPING END
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY.

PREPARATION

As you begin the process of asking your church to participate in Freedom Sunday, you may need to do some extra planning to get things started.



IDEA Why not kick off this project by finding a friend at church to partner with you? This could be particularly helpful if you don't know your pastor or church leader very well. It can also be nice to have someone to work with. Either way, the choice is yours.

We've compiled this section as a guide to help you in the process. It may seem a little daunting to present an idea like Freedom Sunday to your pastor or church leadership.

QUESTIONS TO PREPARE

- How well do you know your pastor?
- Do you need someone to introduce you

to the pastor?

- Who handles the calendar and scheduling at your church?
- Who would be involved in making the decision to host a Freedom Sunday?
- Why is ending slavery important to me? How has my knowledge of this issue and my work with IJM shaped my faith?

THE FOUR C'S

The first thing you'll want to do is get some time on the calendar with your pastor or church leaders.

Keeping your answers to the questions above in mind, make sure to do this first. Once you've got time booked with your pastor, it's a

good idea to start planning for the conversation itself.

To help you prepare, here's a meeting structure called "The Four C's" that will give you an idea of how it might go.

1 CONNECT

You may want to begin with introductions.

"Hi! I'm _____ and I've been part of this church community for _____ years."

2 CONTEXT

Share why you reached out and what you'd like to discuss.

"I've just found out about this really great opportunity called Freedom Sunday. This is an invitation for churches to participate in the movement to end modern slavery, and I'm hoping our church can join in.

"I'll tell you more about this in a second, but I'd like to start by going over the issue and why I'm involved—and the reason I'm so excited about this invitation to be part of the movement to end slavery."

"For a long time, I thought that slavery was a thing of the past. But then, I found out about this organization called International Justice Mission, when I attended _____ and heard _____ speak. I was astounded to find out that today, there are actually more people living in slavery than at any other time in history. It moved me, particularly because _____ and I knew that my faith was calling me to take action to help end it. One story I heard that really stood out to me was Gowri's story. She is a mother from India who suffered greatly under slavery for years, along with her whole family. But now she is free and is fighting for others to be free as well. It inspired me because, while slavery still exists and is very real in our world today, there are effective ways to fight it."

THE FOUR C'S (CONTINUED)

3 COMMITMENT

Explain what Freedom Sunday is and why you want your church to participate.

"Freedom Sunday is an invitation for our church to join our fellow believers around the nation in helping to bring about the end of slavery, by dedicating our service on Sunday, September 24, to freedom.

"Being part of the movement to end slavery has meant a lot to my personal development as a Christian, because I believe God is calling me to be _____ in the world. I think others in our congregation would benefit similarly from having the opportunity to learn more about this issue and how they can help. IJM will provide all of the materials we'll need, so I'm hoping that we can dedicate September 24 to taking part in Freedom Sunday."

4 CATAPULT

Answer questions, recap, ask for a timeline, and say thank you!

"Do you have any questions? If I can't answer them, I'll be happy to pass them on to IJM and they will get back to us directly.

"Just to recap: I'd really like for our church to take part in Freedom Sunday, which is all about awakening the body of Christ to the problem of modern-day slavery and what we can do to end it. We could be part of it by dedicating our service on September 24.

"Could you please let me know when you think you'll be able to make a decision on this request? What would be the best way for me to follow up? Thank you so much for your time!"



INVITE YOUR PASTOR TO PARTICIPATE

Now that you've scheduled a meeting with your pastor and taken care of the preparation, all you have left to do is actually meet with your pastor and extend the invitation to participate in Freedom Sunday!

If your pastor has specific questions about what this day will look like, or questions you can't answer, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. We are standing by and ready to walk with you and your church to

help make your Freedom Sunday a success!

After your meeting, be sure to thank your pastor for their time and leave them with some additional information about IJM and our work.



CONNECT WITH IJM Let us know how it went! We'll be eagerly waiting to celebrate with you when your church accepts your invitation to join Freedom Sunday. **Email us at freedomsgiving@ijm.org.**

FREEDOM SUNDAY

HELPFUL INFORMATION



WHO IS IJM?

International Justice Mission (IJM) is the world's largest international anti-slavery organization.

Working out of 17 field offices across Africa, Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia, IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT

We fuel the global justice movement by drawing the world's attention to everyday violence, influencing leaders to become champions for protecting the poor, equipping Christians to live out their faith's call to justice, and rallying all people of good will to the fight.

OUR WORK

IJM partners with local authorities and organizations to fight to end:

- Modern-day slavery
- Sex trafficking
- Cybersex trafficking of children
- Sexual violence
- Police brutality
- Property grabbing
- Citizens rights abuse

ABOUT IJM

Inspired by God's call to love all people and to seek justice, IJM's global team of Christian lawyers, social workers, investigators and other professionals protect the poor from violence without regard to religion or any other factor.

IJM is honored to work with a growing movement of people of good will around the world who have awakened to the problem of modern-day slavery and want to end it.

Together, we will continue to advance the cause of justice—until all are free.

COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

IJM has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator—the highest possible rating—recognizing IJM's exceptional commitment to financial responsibility, accountability and transparency, and demonstrating that IJM exceeds industry standards.

[Find out more](#) 



READ OUR 2015 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

2015 was a big year for the movement to end slavery and protect the poor from violence. Read more about survivors rescued, exciting new partnerships, and the biggest bill IJM has worked on yet.

[Read the Latest Year-In-Review](#) 

SEEKING GOD'S HEART FOR JUSTICE

God has an intimate connection with those suffering from violence, for each one is made in his image. What is God's plan to stop the violence and end slavery? According to the Bible, we are the plan. IJM believes God uses his Church to bring transformation and justice to a hurting world.

[Connect with us](#) 

Justice is in the heart of God and is a significant part of our mission in the world. Every church should hear about the work of IJM.

They will help you make a difference in the world.

RICK WARREN

Pastor, Saddleback Church;

Author, *The Purpose Driven Life*



SHARING STORIES OF FREEDOM

Modern-day slavery can seem like a distant issue for many people who aren't aware of it.

Trying to imagine 45 million people in general is hard enough, and the realities of what slavery really means for human lives today can get lost when you're thinking on that high of a level.

That's why storytelling is so important. By sharing how you came to be involved in the fight to end slavery, why you are passionate about this cause, what struck you when you first learned that it existed, and the story of survivors, you can help bring others into the movement.

TIPS ON TELLING STORIES WELL

- **Who is the listener?** Think about their interests, perspectives, profession and personal lives. Highlight details in your

story to which you know they will relate.

For example, when talking to your pastor, you could assume they will be interested in how being involved in the movement to end slavery has helped to deepen your faith.

What do you want to achieve by telling this story? Think about the overall direction of your meeting or conversation. Orient your story to support that objective. You would like your pastor to bring Freedom Sunday to your church. So, you might use your own story as support for why you think this would be engaging to your congregation as a whole, and use [Gowri's story](#) to add an emotional human element to the cause of ending modern slavery.

- **Know your own story.** Dedicate a little time

TELLING THE IJM STORY

to figure out how and what you'd like to share. Think about the most interesting and important parts of the story you want to tell, and make those the priority.

- Try to shave it down to a couple of minutes, and focus on points of decision or change. You might start telling your story by briefly adding in the context of your relationship to the church (how long you've been going there, what you really like about their

leadership, etc.); then moving into how you found out about modern-day slavery and what compelled you to take action to end it in the context of your faith; and round it out with a sentence or two on why you think others in your congregation would also connect with what you've just related.

- **Use your voice.** Remember, people relate to people. Be conversational.

GOWRI'S STORY & HOW TO SHARE IT

Gowri's is the story of a mother surviving forced labor slavery in India. We've laid out an idea of how you might tell this story to help your pastor understand why you'd like to bring Freedom Sunday to your church.

Gowri is a brave woman from India, and a loving and dedicated mother of three children. Today, she lives in freedom, but for 10 years of her life, she lived enslaved under a cruel man who ran a wood-cutting facility.

One day, Gowri witnessed her 2-year-old daughter being beaten raw by the slave owner. Gowri tried to stop the man from beating her child, but only angered him more. He threw Gowri down and stomped on her stomach. She spent days recovering in agony until she was forced to return to work.

On the day IJM showed up with local authorities, Gowri bravely told us the truth about the violence she faced, and her courage helped release 22 slaves from captivity. Today, Gowri works hard to support her family and other rescued slaves in her community. Her children are safe and studying in school for a better future.



WATCH [this inspiring story of courage](#), and see how Gowri came to know that “justice is on [her] side.”

**LEARN TO DO GOOD;
SEEK JUSTICE,
RESCUE THE OPPRESSED,
DEFEND THE ORPHAN,
PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW.**

Isaiah 1:17

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AND HEAR GOD'S CALL FOR JUSTICE.

HEAR GOD'S CALL FOR JUSTICE — JOIN FREEDOM SUNDAY.



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#UNTILALLAREFREE