

Explore It FOR LEADERS



TRUE STORY

This session is planned to enable you to launch with your group the free resource *True Story* – a toolkit for young people to take action against human trafficking. If you have been unable to order copies you will still be able to use this session with young people and place an order at a later date.

True Story is available for two age groups: **7-12** and for **13- to 18-year-olds**. Please contact youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk with your name, address, corps where applicable, and number of copies for each age group.

Read the 'Autumn Overview' leader's notes for more info.

Start It

Share some photographs of children with friends and family. You may be able to share some photographs of your group, a reminder of times they spent together.

Ask some questions such as:

- How does it feel to play with your friends?
- How does spending time with your family make you feel?

Change conversation and ask:

- How does it feel when you don't get to spend time with your friends?
- When you are unable to play with your family, how does it make you feel?

Explain that there are some young people who do not have friends or families around them or chances to play. Ask why might this be.

Sing It

Sing and move to this upbeat version of the classic gospel song.

'This little light of mine' by Listener Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkbIZtqhyQ>

Tell It

Note: Tee's journey may be difficult for some children to listen to or process. It may be suitable to warn your group or their parents and carers in advance about the content of your story.

Share the story of Tee from *True Story*. If your young people have *True Story* they could read with you or screen-share the story below:

I knew very little about life outside my village. I was an 11-year-old orphan living in Vietnam and had never been to school. Before my parents had died, they had borrowed money to pay for my mum's stay in hospital. But the moneylenders wanted their money

back. A local church tried to help, but eventually the moneylenders found me and kidnapped me.

They forced me to work in a horrible warehouse. I had to make nice things for other people but was treated like a prisoner and fed scraps.

I thought life couldn't get worse, but it did. I was sold to traffickers, and they moved me across Asia and Europe in the back of a lorry with other kidnapped people. We felt just like the products we'd been making.

We ended up in the United Kingdom. I worked in terrifying conditions on a drug farm. There was never any chance to escape.

I thought I was finally safe when police stormed the building and rescued me. They sent me to live with a caring family. But then I met someone who spoke my own language. He convinced me to go and live with his family instead. I soon found out he had tricked me.

First, I was forced to work for his family. Then he sold me to traffickers who forced me to work in another warehouse. They beat me and kept me locked up. I was tired and scared all the time and I knew I needed to get out of there. So I gained the trust of my traffickers.

One day they told me to go outside to wash their cars. I used this rare opportunity to escape.

This time the police took me to a Salvation Army safe house in a different city. I still worry every day that I will bump into my traffickers or that I will be deported to Vietnam. But I am starting to believe I can have a better life from now.

Discuss: At this point, members of your group may naturally have questions and a time of discussion may evolve from the story. Allow children the space to talk about how the story made them feel.

🗨️ **Say:** Let's look at Tee's journey.

Screen-share a map and talk about where Tee came from and where he went.

Ask: How long might the journey have taken? What different ways would he have travelled? What would the experience have been like?

🗨️ **Say:** We are told Tee was forced to work. In what ways do you do different jobs and work – for example, having jobs around the house or extra responsibilities at school like being a school librarian? How is Tee's experience different?

Consider Tee's story:

- ➔ Have you heard of stories similar to Tee's before?
- ➔ How do you think Tee felt at different parts of his experience?
- ➔ How did you feel hearing Tee's story?
- ➔ Why was Tee trafficked?

🗨️ **Say:** Slavery has existed for a long time, and although it is illegal in countries across the world, sadly there are more people in slavery today than at any other point in history.

Slavery exists because people make money and gain power from exploiting other people both young and old.

Slavery can begin for a number of reasons, but often people who are desperate for a better life are taken advantage of.

Action It

🗨️ **Say:** There are different actions we can take to fight against modern slavery. True Story is a toolkit designed to give young people the stories and advice to raise awareness and take action in the fight against modern slavery.

Some people may argue that actions have been tried before, or question how can we make a

difference on our own. But by raising awareness, and by getting more people involved, then more action can be taken.

Explain to the children how *True Story* works.

🗨 **Say:** The Youth and Children's team have created this set of photocards so those of you aged 7-12 can do something practical to help more than 40 million people worldwide who are victims of modern slavery.

The six story cards tell the stories of three survivors of human trafficking – Lydia, Fredek and Tee. We hope their stories upset, anger and frustrate you, and – more than that – cause you to take action.

The six action cards suggest six small things you can do to help make a difference. You can log the actions you have taken on the action tracker card and tell the team about what you've been doing through the contact card.

The names of the survivors have been changed, but what you read about actually happened to them.

🗨 **Say:** One of the actions associated with Tee's story is about considering where you shop and what you buy. Why should this be?

CHANGE: (Taken from *True Story*)

We all love a bargain. But our demand for cheap items has an impact on the people who made them.

Look at the labels on your toys and clothes and find out where were they made. Picture the faces of the people who might have made them. Some companies are very good at making sure people are paid well and are looked after for making things. But other companies are not.

If something is very cheap to buy, it probably means the person who made it did not get paid well.

You can do a few simple things to make sure you are buying things that were made or supplied by people who have been fairly paid.

For example, next time you fancy some chocolate, why not buy a brand with the Fairtrade logo? Or when you go shopping with your family, could you check the labels and see if the tea/coffee/bananas/sugar/clothes are Fairtrade?

Screen-share some example of Fairtrade food, clothes and toys, and talk about the possible supply chains involved in making these items. How might these supply chains be different from some others?

Ask: Why might it be a good choice to pay a little more?

Why might that be a hard choice?

How can your actions make a difference if you choose to buy particular items or buy in certain places?

Pray It

People around the world are affected by human trafficking and modern slavery.

Tee is a real child. His name has been changed and his story shared with less detail but his experience was real. Would someone pray for Tee?

You can read about other victims of human trafficking in *True Story*. Their stories are true too. Sadly there are many other victims of slavery around the world. Would someone pray for other victims who are suffering at the moment?

Believing we have the power to make a difference in our massive world is hard to understand.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, 'For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline.' (NLT)

Let us pray together for the power and love to make a difference to those in need.

- **Say:** Over the next few weeks we will continue our conversation around *True Story*. As you read the stories and try some of the actions, you can log these on the action tracker card. With a parent or carer, use the contact card to share how *True Story* has impacted you. You can also order more copies to share with friends and family.

Explore It at Home

This week there are no additional take home sheets. Instead, we encourage you to use the different actions in *True Story* on your own and with your family.



Images from *True Story*, Tee's story

