

Lesson Aim: To grow in our capacity to embrace and share the mercy of Jesus to those less fortunate.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion.

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you were deceived.

1. **Read Proverbs 31:8-9.** What are some ways Christ-followers have been able to live these verses out throughout history (individuals, movements, etc.)?
2. In what ways can these verses be lived out by Christ-followers today?
3. Have you personally ever experienced these verses (either in defense of another or as the one being defended)?
4. We have been discussing the horrors of human trafficking this month, and will now read a first-hand account of a precious person, made in God's image, who was forced into this life. (Warning: some of this material is explicit.) **Read "Nadia's Story" in *Not For Sale*, pages 140-41, 145-47, 150-52 and 155-59.** How does this affect or even change your perspective of the "girls/women on the street"?
5. **Read Psalm 10:17-18 and 34:18.** What does this tell us about God's heart for people like Nadia? What are some ways this challenges us as Christ-followers (both individually and as a church)?
6. **Finish "Nadia's Story" on pages 177-81.** Nadia was rescued because others were moved by true compassion: *a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.* What are some ways that God may be moving you towards compassion (some possibilities: commit to being and staying informed; giving financially to the Children's Hope Chest project; attending the Missions Month Luncheon on 2/26/12 to learn about the summer trips; sponsoring a child through CHC; adopting an orphan; etc.)?
7. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.** What are some weapons we uniquely have as Christ-followers as we consider fighting against injustice and showing mercy to those less fortunate?



growing

8. As Christ-followers, one of the weapons we have to battle against injustice is prayer. A.J. Gordon has said: *you can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.* We suggest you spend some time in prayer about human trafficking and God's mercy and justice as a LifeGroup. Following are some guides you may find helpful.
 - Remember that our battle is ultimately against the spiritual forces of wickedness (cf. Ephesians 6:12), who have demonic strongholds over power structures in this fallen world. Pray that God would demolish the demonic strongholds that enforce or allow human trafficking. Pray that God would demolish strongholds in government, mafia and paying clientele in this wicked industry.
 - Pray for God's mercy on those who have been forced into the human trafficking. That God would provide freedom for them. Pray that their eyes would be opened and they would flee and have success in escaping. Pray that abolitionists would have God's favor.
 - Finally, spend some time asking "What about me Lord? What would you have me do in response?" "Speak Lord, for your servants are listening" (cf. 1 Samuel 3:9).



sewing



reaching



The Bridge: Mission's Month 2012

PROVIDING HOPE AND A FUTURE TO RUSSIA'S INVISIBLE

LOVE MERCY

Katya Celenina & Bob Mudd
Children's Hope Chest
February 19, 2012