One-Hour Christian Education Session:
**Community of Christ Fights Human Trafficking**

**Session Focus**
Understand the problem of global human trafficking and our call to fight it.

**Focus Scripture**
Luke 4:18 (NRSV) : "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free..."

**Objectives**
*The learner will*

- Connect the mission of Jesus Christ and the Community of Christ with acts to combat human trafficking. Community of Christ is called to Abolish Poverty, End Suffering and Pursue Peace on Earth. These mission initiatives go right to the center of Human Trafficking found in every nation on our planet.
- Respond to the resolution against human trafficking approved by the 2010 World Conference by:
  - Understanding what is meant by human trafficking in international and national law
  - Being able to explain how people become vulnerable to traffickers
  - Further educating their communities about human trafficking
  - Helping to reduce the demand for victims or to decrease vulnerability, and
  - Joining with others to identify, rescue and restore victims of human trafficking.

**Materials**
- Legal information (download or find through local resources) to present with the provided slides
- Resource list (handout that you will need to compile with some suggestions)
- Copies of case studies for each group
- Blue Hearts (UN international symbol against human trafficking)

**Resources**
- Power point slide presentation, “Stop the Traffik” with presenter notes - (provided)
- Case studies of victims (provided)
- Computer with PowerPoint
- Screen or blank wall for presentation

**Gather**
Read the focus scripture aloud to the group. Ask the group to read the focus scripture quietly to themselves. Then ask a different reader to read the focus scripture to the group.
Share the full statement of objectives.
Group Activity
• Present the PowerPoint slides “Stop the Traffik.pptx - making use of the presenter notes.
• Add information on international or national laws that pertain to trafficking.

For the Facilitator
Questions for Group Reflections

Engage
Group Activity
1. Case studies. Use case studies to discuss
   a. Whether the person is a victim of human trafficking
   b. What made them vulnerable
   c. How they were identified as a victim
   d. How they were helped

Instructions
Respond
1. To prepare to respond, we need to know what we could do in our own community. Provide resource sheet.
2. Ask if anyone is currently working on this issue and what they are doing.
3. Brainstorm ways the group might participate, including using the Action page resources (in this electronic packet) and sharing in a worship service around anti-trafficking (also included in this electronic packet).

Sending Forth:
Tie our call to combat Human Trafficking to the Enduring Principle:
Worth of All Persons
• God views all people as having inestimable and equal worth.
• God wants all people to experience wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships.
• We seek to uphold and restore the worth of all people individually and in community, challenging unjust systems that diminish human worth.
• We join with Jesus Christ in bringing good news to the poor, sick, captive, and oppressed.

Tie our call to combat Human Trafficking to the Enduring Principle:
Pursuit of Peace (Shalom)
• God wants shalom (justice, reconciliation, well-being, wholeness, and peace) for all of creation.
• Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom (peace), reveals the meaning of God’s peace in all aspects of life.
• The vision of Zion is to promote God’s reign on earth, as proclaimed by Jesus Christ, through the leavening influence of just and peaceful communities.
• We courageously and generously share the peace of Jesus Christ with others.
• Led by the Holy Spirit, we work with God and others to restore peace (shalom) to creation.
• We celebrate God’s peace wherever it appears or is being pursued by people of good will.

Tie our call to combat Human Trafficking to the Mission Initiatives of
• Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
• Pursue Peace on Earth

Bless
Pass out the Blue Hearts. Explain that they were chosen as a symbol of the UN Global Initiative to Fight human Trafficking (UN GIFT) campaign and explain what this is. The Blue Heart represents the sadness of those who are trafficked while reminding us of the cold-heartedness of those who buy and sell fellow human beings. In the same way that the red ribbon has become the international symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness, this campaign aims to make the Blue Heart into an international symbol against human trafficking. By "wearing" the Blue Heart you will raise awareness of human trafficking and join the campaign to fight this crime.

Ask each one to place their heart in a place at home where they will see it, and stop and say a prayer for freedom for all, for rescue and restoration of victims, and for stopping the trafficking. Ask the group to prayerfully consider next steps.
Pray for freedom for all the fulfillment of Christ’s mission.

Case Studies for Use in Lesson:
United States
"Manuel was a 20-year old married man from South America who decided to come to the United States after his friend approached him about a work opportunity. Manuel would have to pay a fee to travel to the US to make money for farm work. His harrowing journey to the United States lasted for weeks and included being forced by armed men to walk for hours on end as well as being drugged. After crossing the US border, he was taken to an apartment where he was kept with over a 100 other people. The apartment was dirty, rat-infested, and guarded by armed men. He was held in this apartment for months because he was unable to pay the additional smuggling fees which were demanded from him. During his time there, he was forced to cook and clean for the others but without any compensation. He was repeatedly threatened, including being told that he would be killed and was witness to acts of sexual violence. At one point Manuel and a few other men attempted to help a woman who was being raped. As punishment, the traffickers forcibly removed one man at a time from the apartment, and none of them ever returned. The traffickers forcibly removed Manuel from the apartment, and he feared he was going to be killed. He was not killed, but instead severely beaten up and thrown out of a moving van, which provided an opportunity to run away. As he was running, he saw a police car and flagged it down. The police took him to hospital for his injuries where he was referred to a service provider. He cooperated with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement to try to identify his traffickers, but they were never found so the case was closed. He has received a T-Visa, was reunified with his wife and is now a Legal Permanent Residence who is currently working in construction.”
United Kingdom

“In mid-June 2005, two women were befriended by Lithuanian men in their homeland, who told them they could make a lot of money in England, working in bars or as cleaners. The two women were from separate, small villages in Lithuania and did not know each other. The men even introduced the girls to a woman, who encouraged them to come to England to make money for their poor families, saying that she had done the same.

The two girls, Daina and Roze (not their real names), were eventually persuaded to go to Vilnius, the day before they flew to England and arrived at Gatwick Airport on 25 July 2005, accompanied by a man and woman. By this time, Daina was beginning to feel that something wasn’t right and began asking questions. The woman took her to one side and told her that someone would collect her and take her to Manchester, where she was to work as a prostitute.

Daina and Roze were then put in a vehicle, driven by Klenton Ismaili. Vladimir Ismaili was in the passenger seat. They were taken to the Formule One Hotel in Coventry. This was the last time that the two women saw each other. Once in England, the girls found themselves trapped and afraid, in a foreign land, unable to communicate. Frightened of the violence they had been threatened with and frightened to contact their families because of the shame that it would bring upon them at home. “

Read more http://combattrafficking.eu/content/sex-trafficking-warwickshire

Iraq

“When Mariam Muhammad got home from work to find that her husband had sold her baby, she finally gave in. The family had already lost most of what they owned - driven from their home during the sectarian violence of 2006, robbed of what little money they had by insurgents.

Her husband had lost his job as a salesman; what little income they had depended on her work as a housekeeper in Baghdad.

They argued long and hard about selling their youngest to put food on the table for their other two children - Mariam objected, threatened divorce; he was undeterred and while she was out, he handed the nine-month-old boy over to traffickers for a fee of £300. Mariam swallowed a bottle of pesticide and died.

"She was a very dedicated mother to her children but couldn't stand the idea of having a child gone because of her husband's inability to get a job," said a close friend.

"During the three days since her son Adel was sold to a trafficking gang, she didn't eat or talk with anybody and the only thing we found was a picture of her kids beside her bed where she also drank all the pesticide."

http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/06/iraq-child-trafficking-case-study

Germany
Ritha Ekweza has been through this process. She began working as a prostitute in Germany in September 2007. After being caught, she testified in court in Frankfurt against her sponsor. After the trial, she explains with tears in her eyes how painful it was to have to recall everything she underwent during her time as a prostitute. "It is not easy to stand and say something, but the thing is, when they bring the girls here, they will just tell them that everything is good, everything is easier, but when you come here it's not the same situation," said Ekweza. "They will bring you and take advantage of you."

Once Ekweza was brought to Europe, her traffickers informed her that she had to pay back some 60,000 euros ($82,000) to them for her flight and other expenses. She worked as a prostitute seven days a week, sometimes attending to more than 18 men a day, to pay off the debt.

In May 2008, she was jailed in Frankfurt for being an illegal prostitute. But together with police and a local women’s rights NGO, she overcame her fear of breaking the voodoo oath. She now works as a hairdresser, and has started a family. She still receives counseling from a local NGO called FIM, or Women’s Rights Are Human Rights. Ekweza is one of more than 900 African women the organization serves as clients each year.

http://www.dw.de/traffickers-use-voodoo-to-threaten-nigerian-victims-into-prostitution/a-5347902

Kenya

"In 1991, a 6-year-old boy was working part-time as a house boy for a fisheries officer. The officer was reassigned to a different region and promised the boy an education if he accompanied him. But instead of being enrolled in school, the boy was forced to tend cattle and serve as the homestead’s security guard. The officer changed the boy’s name to Charles and over time, the boy forgot his native language. Charles, now 26, still works for the fisheries officer but has never received payment and relies on the officer for everything. When Charles requested a piece of land to build a house so he could marry, the man instead forced him to work as a fisherman and turn over the profits. With the help of a local anti-trafficking committee, Charles moved into a rented room in a nearby town but continues to be abused by his trafficker. Charles does not know who or where his family is."

Albania-Western Europe

Anna’s trafficker kept her in submission through physical abuse – beating her, raping her, and slicing her with knives. He abducted her from Albania and took her to a Western European country, where she was forced into prostitution for about five months. He then took her to a second Western European country, where she told border authorities she was traveling on a falsified passport in hopes of getting help. The police sent her to a refugee camp where two Albanian social workers released her back to her trafficker. During more than four years of subsequent forced prostitution in the second destination, Anna was made to undergo four abortions. When her trafficker was deported to Albania, five years after her initial abduction, Anna went to police with information about the trafficking ring. Two days later, she too was deported to Albania, where the trafficker continued his
threats and abuse. Anna pursued prosecution of her trafficker in Albania, but he remains free. She has been denied residency and assistance from several Western European countries, including the ones in which she was exploited. She was able to resettle in the United States where she is continuing her rehabilitation and studying to become a nurse.

Democratic Republic of the Congo
By 18, Christophe had been abducted by the Congolese army three times and forced to transport their supplies from region to region. Christophe and other abducted civilians, sometimes as many as 100, were forced to walk for days carrying boxes of ammunition, jerry cans of whiskey, cases of beer, and other baggage. Primary school children, some as young as 8, were forced to carry the soldiers’ children on their backs. If they got tired or walked slowly, they were beaten or whipped. They were given no food and ate only whatever they could find in the villages they passed through.

China-Ghana
Cindy was a poor girl in rural China when a neighbor and her husband offered to give her work at a restaurant their friends opened in Africa. Cindy dropped out of school and went with the couple to Ghana, only to fall victim to a Chinese sex trafficking ring. She was taken to live in a brothel with other Chinese women, and her passport and return tickets were confiscated. Her traffickers forced her to engage in commercial sex and beat her when she refused. They made her peruse casinos to attract white men. The traffickers took Cindy’s money, telling her she had to repay them for her travel and accommodation costs. A Ghanaian investigative journalist exposed the ring, and the traffickers were prosecuted in a Ghanaian court. With NGO assistance, Cindy and the other women returned to China and are trying to rebuild their lives.

Ethiopia-United Arab Emirates
Mary left her home in East Africa determined to earn money for her family. But from her second day of work as a maid in a private house in the United Arab Emirates, she was beaten daily. “If she didn’t beat me in the day, she would beat me at night,” Mary says of her employer. The beatings continued for two years. Once, Mary’s employer threw boiling water on her and continued to beat her after she collapsed in pain. She was denied medical attention. Her clothing stuck to her wounds. Her employer ordered Mary to have sex with another maid on video. When Mary refused, the woman put a hot iron on her neck and threatened her with more beatings. After two years, a doctor noted wounds, scars, and blisters all over Mary’s body.

Laos-Thailand
At 17, Khansee left his village in southern Laos to find work in a border town. He had very little education, could barely read or write, and was supporting his mother and grandmother. Another young man told Khansee he could earn $170 a month working at a garment factory in Thailand. Khansee trusted him because he was a fellow Lao, but he never made it to the garment factory. They crossed the river at
night and boarded a van that took them to the coast of Thailand. When Khansee stepped out of the van, he was immediately led onto a fishing trawler under the watchful eyes of men armed with guns. For two years, Khansee worked day and night, heaving nets of fish without a rest or break. He ate and slept little on a crowded deck with 40 other men. He was beaten on a regular basis. Once, Khansee watched his traffickers beat a fellow worker until the man was unconscious. After two years of forced servitude, Khansee managed to escape when the boat was docked. He ran for days through the jungle, until he reached the home of a woman who took him in, fed him, and gave him money for a taxi to the Lao Embassy in Bangkok. With NGO and embassy assistance, Khansee made it back to his village alive.

**Philippines-Nigeria-Togo-Cyprus**

Neah was promised a job as a waitress in Germany but found herself forced to work in a Nigerian brothel instead. After some time, she was sold to another brothel in Togo. There, Neah and other women lived in a confined environment. They were allowed to go out only if a customer took them out. They lived and worked in a guarded complex, enclosed by high walls and were accompanied by guards whenever they went to a shop. They used the little money they were given to pay for their monthly provisions. In both Nigeria and Togo, Neah was indentured to her employers and never had enough money to buy a ticket home. Neah decided to go to Cyprus to find a better-paying brothel. After six months, she earned enough money to pay her debts and buy a ticket home.

**Cambodia**

Rathana was born to a very poor family in Cambodia. When Rathana was 11 years old, her mother sold her to a woman in a neighboring province who sold ice in a small shop. Rathana worked for this woman and her husband for several months. She was beaten almost every day and the shop owner never gave her much to eat. One day a man came to the shop and bought Rathana from the ice seller. He then took her to a far-away province. When they arrived at his home he showed Rathana a pornographic movie and then forced her to act out the movie by raping her. The man kept Rathana for more than eight months, raping her sometimes two or three times a day. One day the man got sick and went to a hospital. He brought Rathana with him and raped her in the hospital bathroom. Another patient reported what was happening to the police. Rathana was rescued from this man and sent to live in a shelter for trafficking survivors.

http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/142751.htm