

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

### **EMANCIPATION FOR SLAVES**

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, and already many communities across America have celebrated the 160th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. On January 1, 1863, a document signed by President Abraham Lincoln went into effect declaring the freedom of enslaved people living in Confederate states that were not yet in Union hands. This freedom was not realized by most slaves in the South until the conclusion of the Civil War, in 1865. Today, slavery remains a scourge in America through forced labor and sex trafficking. "I call upon businesses, civil society organizations, communities of faith, families, and all Americans," said President Biden in a December 30, 2022, proclamation, "to recognize the vital role we play in combating human trafficking."

### **EMANCIPATION FOR ALL**

Through Isaiah, the Lord reminded the Jewish people that his will has always been to loose the chains of injustice, feed the hungry, and remove the yoke of oppression. In today's passage, Isaiah declares God's promise that those who heed his call to bring emancipation to all who are in forced labor will receive blessing and power from heaven.

1. What was your closest encounter with slavery, forced labor, or human trafficking?
2. How can we fight human trafficking today?
3. Who is one person whose suffering you could alleviate this week?

### **Additional Resources**

*These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.*

Music Video, Traditional: ["Just When I Need Him, Jesus Is Near" by George Byrd](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: ["What A Beautiful Name" by Aaron Lindsey](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: ["Hunger" by MDSN and David & Nicole Binion](#)

[Guzik's Commentary on Isaiah 58](#)

[Matthew Henry's Commentary on Isaiah 58](#)

[Spurgeon's Exposition of Isaiah 58](#)