



WEEK 5 | A NEW JOURNEY BEGINS

The darkest day is followed by a new dawn. Jesus' unexpected resurrection brings hope to sufferers around the world.

CONSIDER... THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



1. Jesus is taken down from the cross
2. Jesus is laid in the tomb
3. Jesus is Risen!

Despite enduring unspeakable suffering, many victims of modern slavery find ways to journey forward. We can join them in this journey as friends and supporters.



WATCH FINDING RESTORATION

Film questions



- What struck you about Jing's story?
- Read John 11:1-45 (the Gospel reading for next Sunday)
 - What journey do Mary and Martha go on to arrive at the tomb?
 - How do you see this same process happening in Jing's story?
 - How did Martha open the tomb she felt trapped in and fill her soul with new life?





CONSIDER... THE CONTEMPORARY STATIONS OF THE CROSS



How do these contemporary images convey the experience of victims post rescue – living in the shadow of the tomb and the light of the future?



PRAYER



Spend some time in silence recalling the film.

Living Lord, we praise you for your gift of resurrection from the dead. We ask that this miracle of new life and richer walking together may be better shared amongst ourselves, and with all who long to be raised into the image you desire to bless. Guide us as we commit ourselves anew to the service of all who suffer, and especially those still being abused and exploited in our midst. Hear us Lord, we pray. Amen.



NEXT STEPS ON YOUR JOURNEY — SUPPORTING VICTIMS



There are a number of ways you can support victims in your community.

- Get in touch with local charities and organisations to see if they need volunteers
- Consider how you could use art to raise awareness or support victims in their recovery?
Are there any local charities running therapeutic art projects?
- Start praying regularly for the vulnerable people in your community and asking God to prompt you to action.



The top thing I would recommend is to look in your local community and find a charity that supports survivors of slavery or look to your local authority who will typically have a modern slavery lead.

Rebecca Helme, Hestia



Victims may not come forward for a host of reasons. Sometimes it is because they don't see themselves as victims. I've met men who are working 12 hours a day in a car wash, sleeping on dog blankets on a concrete floor and occasionally paid £5. It absolutely was exploitation but when we talked to them, their view was, 'our home country was a lot worse and at least we wake up in the morning here without being blown up'. They would never want to report themselves as victims because they didn't see themselves as victims.

Sion Hall, Retired Deputy Chief Inspector and Chair of the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership (PLASP)



FIONA'S JOURNEY

Fiona grew up in Scotland and worked for 20 years as a lawyer before embarking on a dramatic change of direction. Her voluntary work with destitute asylum seekers in Bradford helped her to understand that her focus should be on people who are marginalised.

In conversation with the Church of Scotland, she learned of its support for the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy (FCEI). She was amazed to discover that the organisation was looking for a native English speaker with advocacy skills, ideally with some Italian and keen to work alongside migrants and refugees. It seemed like a divine match.

Fiona has been seconded to FCEI by the Church of Scotland since 2018. FCEI's refugee and migrant programme, Mediterranean Hope, has teams based in Lampedusa, Sicily, Calabria, Bosnia and Beirut, as well as Rome, where Fiona works. She supports her colleagues through her engagement with external institutions and policymakers, by helping to develop good practice, in particular, in relation to legal pathways such as the humanitarian corridors which FCEI pioneered in Italy, and through awareness-raising initiatives.

Fiona has seen first-hand the power and potential of therapeutic art in community projects amongst refugees and migrant workers in southern Italy. She explains:

“The process of recovering from an experience of modern slavery or exploitation is long and requires specialist assistance. But there are things that we, as communities, can do to help that process of recovery.

“The therapeutic art project, which we've run with help from The Clewer Initiative, involved people who had had different experiences of exploitation. It enabled them to detach from and start to process the trauma they've been through by reconnecting with a sense of self and fun. It was incredible to watch people who perhaps hadn't held a pen or paintbrush for a long time suddenly be afforded the opportunity and the time simply to play.

“We don't have all the answers, and nor should we imagine that we do. It is a process that requires specialist help and we have to be very careful when we're attempting to assist people who've been through such trauma. However, it has been a privilege to watch people open up and share something of their stories.”



CONCLUSION

Caroline Virgo, Director of The Clewer Initiative

As you come to the end of your Lent journey, we hope you feel clearer on the next steps you can take. We have tried to flesh out what it looks like to join the fight and move from the side-lines to action.

We have talked about the importance of knowing the signs of modern slavery and what to do with your suspicions. We have discussed the incomparable value of community resilience and investing in our neighbourhoods so criminal gangs cannot target vulnerable people. We have explored the importance of strategic partnerships and robust safeguarding practices and have rejoiced in the power of therapeutic art and other community initiatives that help victims in their recovery. Our prayer is that these elements will become part of your journey.

You may be wondering : what is God calling me to do next and what do I need to take the next step? At The Clewer Initiative, we have developed a swathe of practical tools and resources to help churches, communities, partners and the public take action against modern slavery. We have posters, apps, training courses and seminars which have all been designed to equip and inform.

If you have been stirred by the material in Journeys and are looking for further support or have a question about next steps, please get in touch with us by emailing clewerinitiative@churchofengland.org We can connect you with your diocesan lead for modern slavery, who will let you know about projects in your area and support you as you explore the best way forward.

It may be that you are only just beginning to find out about modern slavery, and are unsure how to respond or what capacity you have to help. If this is the case, please don't despair or feel powerless! Remember the famous proverb, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

As we take that single step, we can remember the Apostle Paul's prayer in 2 Thessalonians. He writes: "with this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith."

This is our hope. As we face an enormous task, we pray that our good and faithful God will transform our efforts into something life-changing.



WHO TO CONTACT

If there is an emergency and someone is in immediate danger, call **999**.

If you would like to report any non-emergency suspicious activity in your local area then call your local police on **101** or go to your local police station.

If you need advice or support on modern slavery, please call the **MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE ON 08000 121 700**.

It operates 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

If you are in England or Wales and suspect that you or someone you have come across could be a victim of modern slavery and in need of help, please call The Salvation Army's 24/7 confidential referral advice line on **0800 808 3733**. This is where to go to get adult victim specialist support.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped bring the **Journeys** project to life, particularly:

Becca Faal

Bill Crooks <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>

Dan Pratt <https://www.togetherfree.org.uk/>

Fiona Kendall www.mediterraneanhope.com <https://www.fcei.it/>

Hilary Lines

Rebecca Helme <https://www.hestia.org/>

Sion Hall <https://twitter.com/PLASPSupport>

Bishop Alastair Redfern <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/>

GLAA <https://www.gla.gov.uk/>

NCA <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/>

DH&Co

April de Angelis

And the team at The Clewer Initiative!



APPENDIX

The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, sometimes known as the Way of the Cross or the Via Crucis, consists of a series of 14 images which were developed to enable Christians to enter into Jesus' final journey on the day of His crucifixion. In recent times, an image of the resurrection of Jesus has been included, to allow people to pursue the journey more fully.

The Stations of the Cross are widely used during Lent (and especially on Good Friday) in Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist traditions.

Not all of the images have a clear scriptural foundation, but the complete set of images provides a profound invitation to explore the mysteries of innocent suffering, harsh judgement, misplaced prejudice, courage, commitment, and the mystery of new life being received against every human expectation – the journey of Jesus to the cross and the miracle of resurrection.

The stations are:

- 1st Station:** Jesus is condemned to death
Mark 15:1-15
- 2nd Station:** Jesus carries His cross
John 19:6, 15-17
- 3rd Station:** Jesus falls the first time
- 4th Station:** Jesus meets His Mother
- 5th Station:** Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross
Mark 15:21
- 6th Station:** Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- 7th Station:** Jesus falls the second time
- 8th Station:** Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
Luke 23:27-31
- 9th Station:** Jesus falls a third time
- 10th Station:** Jesus is stripped of his garments
John 19:23-24
- 11th Station:** Jesus is nailed to the cross
Luke 23:33-34
- 12th Station:** Jesus dies on the cross
Luke 23:44-46
- 13th Station:** The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
Luke 23: 50-53
- 14th Station:** Jesus is laid in the tomb
Matthew 27:57-60
- 15th Station:** Jesus is risen from the dead!
Matthew 28:1-10