

SFHT 2026 - Message Outline

MESSAGE OVERVIEW: *Switch Fights: Human Trafficking* is a special night designed to:

1. Bring *awareness* to the injustice of human trafficking and how the Church is working to end it.
2. Inspire students to take *action* by praying for those involved and supporting our mission partners fighting on the front lines, like A21 and IJM.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus is still in the business of bringing life and freedom everywhere He goes. And, He's inviting us to join Him.

TEACHING TEXT: ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ² has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come ... Isaiah 61:1-2 NLT

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW? Human trafficking is real, horrible, and it happens everywhere. It won't go away unless somebody does something about it. As followers of Jesus, we know that we are somebody and God wants us to play a part in bringing an end to this injustice.

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO FEEL? Heartbroken over the evil and injustice of human trafficking. Hopeful because of the Gospel of Jesus and because God can use them to make a difference.

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO? Spread the word. Pray. Give.

INTRO + TENSION: **Emma's story of survival and hope.**

TRUTH: Because of Jesus, there's always hope. Even in the darkest places, there is a light that no darkness, no matter how deep, can extinguish or overcome.

This semester we've been walking through the Old Testament and learning how every page and passage leads us to Jesus and invites us to live like Jesus.

There's a prophet, named Isaiah, who served God and advised Israel's kings for decades. Sometimes the book of Isaiah is called the fifth gospel, because he, more than any other prophet, points forward to Jesus time and time again.

In Isaiah 61, we read this ... ¹ *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.* ² *has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come* ... Isaiah 61:1-2 NLT

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus Himself leaves no doubt that this message from Isaiah is about Him. He stands up in the synagogue at His home town, reads this passage, and rolls up the scroll ... everyone's eyes were on Him. I imagine you could hear every little shuffling sound in the room. And when Jesus spoke He said, "today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." I'm the guy. This is what I came to do.

And he didn't just say it ... He did it. Like the next part of that very same chapter sees Jesus proclaiming good news to the least, last, and lost. People, held captive by demonic oppression, released. People confined to their sick beds with disease, healed and set free. This prophecy from Isaiah about 700 years before, was fulfilled in Jesus.

APPLICATION + CONCLUSION: What does any of this have to do with us? 2 big things ...

1. This wasn't just good news for people then, it's good news for us right now.

This is who Jesus was, and it's who He still is. He's still the anointed one, the Messiah. His gospel is still good news because there's no brokenness He cannot heal and no oppression He cannot lift. **Jesus is still in the business of bringing life and freedom everywhere He goes. And, He's inviting us to join Him.** And the first step is coming to Him. If you find yourself needing healing, freedom, and hope ... Jesus has it. He has the power to do for us what we never could, and He loves us enough to go through death and back to set us free.

Which leads us to the next thing. **2. The same Spirit that rested on Jesus resides in us.**

Throughout the biblical story, we see a God who desperately wants to partner with people to bring His goodness to all of creation ... it's what we were made for! We see it in the beginning of the story with Adam and Eve, we see it through the nation of Israel, we see it in Jesus and His disciples, and we see it through the way the Spirit of God moved powerfully in the early church. And we serve the same God as they did. The same Spirit lives in us.

When Jesus sent His disciples out to share the good news of God's Kingdom, He said to them ... freely you have received, so freely give.

We have been given the gift of God's grace, salvation, and freedom, not because of anything we've done, but because of who Jesus is and what He accomplished. We've freely received, and now, it's time to partner with the Spirit of the living God, to continue the work Jesus started, bringing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Freely we've received, now just as freely give. Be a hope dealer, a light in the dark. Call on heaven, cry out for justice. Proclaim liberty to the captives and share the good news of Jesus and the freedom He offers wherever you go. Knowing, that same Spirit that rested on Jesus, resides in you, in us, empowering us to do what we could not do on our own.

That's what Switch Fights: Human Trafficking is all about. Ordinary people like you and me partnering with the God of the Universe to bring His goodness to every corner of creation. **Let's pray.**