

FOR THE LOVE OF GOD + -

AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER? THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE

This segment comes from **EPISODE 2: RIGHTS + WRONGS**.

Modern Westerners take it for granted that every life is valuable. But ideas like equality before the law and the importance of caring for the vulnerable are by no means self-evident. So where did they come from? Why are we so attached to the idea of “inalienable human rights”? This segment looks at how William Wilberforce’s belief that humanity is made in the “image of God” led him to campaign tirelessly for the abolition of the slave trade, and in doing so, change the course of history.



THEME QUESTIONS

1. What does “freedom” mean to you?
2. Do you think the church is concerned about freedom for the oppressed?



ENGAGE

1. What is something that you are passionate about? Why are you passionate about it?
2. Share a time when you have persevered through difficult circumstances in order to reach a goal.
3. Have you ever worn a wristband, ribbon, or something similar in support of a particular cause? If so, what cause (or causes) was it?

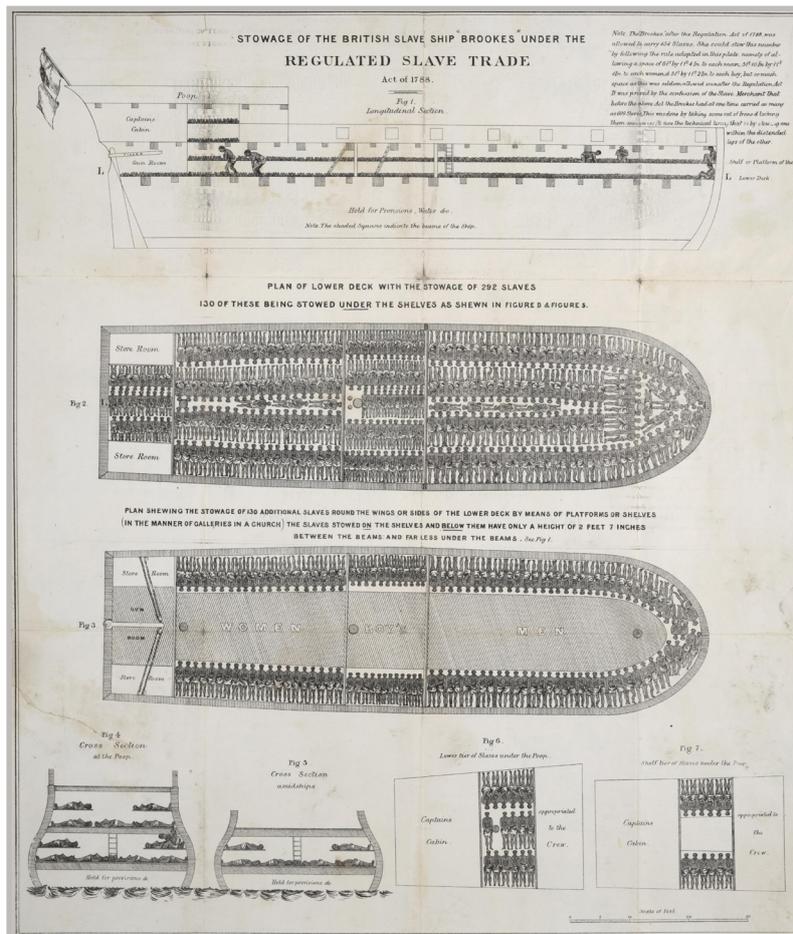
4. Read this information ([cpx.video/slavetrade](https://www.unesco.org/en/education/resources/primary-source/transatlantic-slave-trade)) from UNESCO about the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and look at this map ([cpx.video/slaveroute](https://www.unesco.org/en/education/resources/primary-source/transatlantic-slave-trade)) of the slave route. Write down three pieces of information that stood out to you.

1.

2.

3.

5. Look at this diagram of a British slave ship from c.1788. How does this image make you feel?



6. Imagine you are a slave being transported from Africa to the Americas in the 1700s. Write a diary entry describing your experiences and feelings.

UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE



WATCH the segment: “Am I not a man and a brother? The abolition of the slave trade” (cpx.video/abolition)

1. Simon Smart describes William Wilberforce as someone whose Christian faith produced in him “a passionate commitment to action on behalf of others”. What were some of the causes Wilberforce and the “Clapham Sect” passionately worked for?
2. What central conviction motivated Wilberforce to fight for the abolition of the slave trade?
3. On what grounds was the opposition to Wilberforce’s campaign based?
 - a. How might you have responded if you received this kind of opposition for twenty years?
 - b. How did Wilberforce respond?
4. What strikes you about the Wedgwood bone china pattern referenced in the episode, and the words, “Am I not a man and a brother?” and “Am I not a woman and a sister?” Why do you think this was a powerful way to attack the slave trade?



5. What particular role did women in Britain play in the abolition of the slave trade?

6. Draw a picture of the moment when the slave trade was finally abolished by the House of Representatives, and Wilberforce's reaction.
 - a. How do you think you would have reacted if you were him in this moment?
7. Rowan Williams describes the anti-slavery movement as being almost entirely run by Christians, and concludes, "If the abolition of slavery had been left to enlightened secularists in the 18th century, we'd still be waiting." What is your reaction to this quote? Why do you think he says this?

BIBLE FOCUS

READ Luke 4:14-21.

1. What does Jesus say God has sent him to do for the following people:
 - a. The poor?
 - b. Prisoners?
 - b. The blind?
 - c. The oppressed?
2. How important was freedom from oppression for Jesus?

READ Galatians 6:9.

3. What does this verse call us to do? What reason does it give?
4. What do you think the phrase "reap a harvest" means here?
5. Rewrite this verse in your own words.
6. How did William Wilberforce follow this verse?

 **APPLY**

1. Read [this information \(cpx.video/modernslavetrade\)](https://cpx.video/modernslavetrade) from the World Economic Forum about modern slavery. In small groups, inspired by the Wedgwood pattern, design your own product range and slogan to raise awareness about and fight against modern slavery.
2. What would a modern-day William Wilberforce look like? What would be some of their defining characteristics?
3. Write on a post-it note one thing you could personally do to promote equality of all and freedom from oppression in your school or community.

 **EXTEND**

1. Read [this letter \(cpx.video/wesleyletter\)](https://cpx.video/wesleyletter) from English clergyman and theologian John Wesley to William Wilberforce from 1791 (this is thought to be the last letter Wesley wrote before he died), and complete the following activities:
 - a. Find as many Bible verses as you can that are referenced in the letter.
 - b. Write a diary entry from Wilberforce after receiving this letter, reflecting on its contents.
2. Find a recent news article about an example of modern slavery. Write a Facebook post sharing the article and commenting on it, drawing on themes from this lesson.