

Chapter 1

Questions for Discussion

- In the opening chapter, we see Raleigh struggling with his own vulnerability. How have you struggled with or run from your own vulnerability? The vulnerability of others?
- How has your own pain opened your eyes to the pain of others? Think about one instance where you were forced to think through your own pain. How did you respond, when you could finally “see”?
- Have you already begun to interact with those most vulnerable in your community? If so, who are they? If not, why not?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, more often than not, we fail to embrace our vulnerability; instead, we run from it. Though we are given the opportunity to take our cares to you, we hide in the corner and pretend that everything is “okay.” Give us the faith to follow you into the darkness of uncertainty, knowing that you are there waiting for us. Show us the ways that we are hiding from our own vulnerability, even now. Give us courage as we attempt to follow you into what we fear the most.



Chapter 2

Questions for Discussion

- Our assumptions drive how we respond to human trafficking. How many of the five false assumptions did you believe?

- On page 44, Raleigh says:

As we leave our own comfort zones and experience our own vulnerability, we will begin to see those living in discomfort more clearly. It's only when we stop "protecting" ourselves from the people that we are called to help that we will be positioned to act to help our neighbors.

- How can our own desires for protecting ourselves keep us from protecting others? How can we move forward to serve others in a healthy manner?
- Based on what you have read so far pertaining to the myths of human trafficking, what do you think is the best way to learn about its true nature?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, show us how you want us to respond to human trafficking. Expose the false assumptions that we have believed about sex and labor trafficking. Make the truth of what is really happening clear to us. Help us see those in our communities, who are vulnerable to victimization.



Chapter 3

Questions for Discussion

- In this chapter, we discussed how our theology impacts our approach to vulnerable populations. Why is it important to discern whether we are working from a theology of glory or a theology of the cross?
- As we learned from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, every instance of trafficking includes an act, a means, and a purpose. Using the cases that we have previously discussed, identify the act, means, and purpose of each.
- Google “human trafficking” and the name of your community, state and/or region. As you begin to find cases that hit entirely too close to home, see if you can discover how force, fraud, and coercion were employed. This exercise will help you recognize it when you see it first-hand.

PRAYER GUIDE

Holy Spirit, reveal the flaws in the way that I have responded to human trafficking up to this point. Show me how I have clung to a theology of glory and lead me to embrace a theology of the cross. Continue to expose the insidious “us and them” dichotomy that I have allowed to go unchecked in my life. Instead of giving in to the temptation to only love those who look and act like me, give me a desire to love the neighbor of your choosing. Help me to see how you address the vulnerability of others in your Word.



Chapter 4

Questions for Discussion

- In this chapter, we discussed what it means to be a hypocrite. In what ways have you recognized your own hypocrisy? What “mask” are you hiding behind?
- What are some other Scriptures that point to God’s passion for justice?
Hint: You can start with Isaiah 1:16-18 and Micah 6:8.
- How have you attempted to cover your own vulnerability? In other words, what are your functional fig leaves?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, I can be so blind. For that reason, I ask you to illuminate the Scriptures that I have not appropriately unpacked; may I not “read past” those things that are near and dear to your heart. Use your Word to open my eyes to my own hypocrisy as well as to your sufficiency for me. In so doing, give me a heart like yours that craves justice and desires mercy. Transform how I see your mission in the world and help me to see my role in it.



Chapter 5

Questions for Discussion

- In this chapter, we discussed Jesus' first sermon. Why is it important that He chose to read Isaiah 61?
- In many of our churches, we have a very personalized approach to salvation. How does the "gospel of the kingdom" challenge that idea? How does this "already/not yet" kingdom impact the way that you love vulnerable people?
- This chapter is punctuated by interruptions. How has God disrupted your life recently? How did you react?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, open my eyes to see your love for me. Convict me of my own shallow attempts at living justly. Help me to see my neighbors and start a conversation. Help me to truly listen to others and to resist the urge to "fix" them. Rather, help me to invest in others by empowering them to find your calling for their lives. May I not stop praying for those who are marginalized in my community. Lord Jesus, as I see what's happening around me, I feel utterly helpless. I know my own heart and know that I don't care about justice or mercy to the degree that I should. Forgive me. I know you care more than we could ever care about those suffering in our communities. May we tap into your passion for others. Send holy disruptions into our lives. May each "interruption" be an invitation to follow you on a cruciform path. In these moments, show me how you have me to help.



Chapter 6

Questions for Discussion

- What challenged you about Rachelle’s story? Anna’s story?
- Take a moment and google the vulnerabilities in your community. One place that will help you as you begin this journey is the Distressed Communities Index. Enter your zip code into the online database to discover important factors in your own community that contribute to vulnerability. Go to this link: <https://eig.org/dci> You may already know those most vulnerable in your community because you are actively avoiding them. Who are the people in your community that you would like to avoid? How may you be labeling or “dehumanizing” vulnerable people in your own community?

PRAYER GUIDE

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thank you for seeing me in all of my sin and still choosing to love me. Grant me a holy discontentment for the status quo. Show me who you have placed in my path. Give me eyes to see those who are most vulnerable in my community. Give me the courage to stop sitting on the sidelines and start loving others. Help me to take that next step in loving those around me, whomever they may be. God, help us actually see our neighbors. It’s so easy to only focus on what is happening in our own lives that we become blind to see what is going on around us. Forgive us from worshipping at the altar of comfort and self-protection. May we be so wrapped up in who you are for us that we become passionate about those things for which you are passionate. Forgive us for missing what’s in front of us. Help us to see those whom you have sovereignly placed in our communities as nothing less than our neighbors. . As we lead from a heart of compassion, may we remember that we are following an olive-skinned King, who loves those who are vulnerable to the point that He became vulnerable in our place.



Chapter 7

Questions for Discussion

- Why do we need to collaborate with others in this work? How are you currently collaborating with others? How could you begin?
- How could your church create a “safe space”? Where would you start? How can we be “safe people”?
- Have you or your church initiated a “season of learning”? If so, what did you learn? How did this impact you, as well as your congregation?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, you became like us to save us. In the person of Jesus, you became vulnerability personified. As we look to love our neighbor, may we see them as our equals. Forgive us for adopting a de-humanizing stance towards those in need. Forgive us for not seeing your face in the faces of those who are exploited. I ask you to give us a passion to treat others as they are due; to recognize and respect the God-given dignity that each human being possesses. Lord, may we not rush into loving others without really understanding the situation, help us in our seasons of learning to become “safe people” and to make our houses of worship places that are safe environments for those who are most vulnerable.



Chapter 8

Questions for Discussion

- Why is it important for us to attempt to love others from a standpoint of vulnerability?
- How do you think Iryna's neighbor's experience of their own vulnerability helped them to better care for Iryna?
- How do you see your own reflection in Iryna's story? Who do you most resemble?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving us. Through your vicarious life, death, and resurrection, we are made alive. In you, we become new creations, we are no longer defined by our pasts or even our presents; we are defined by you. In your eyes, we are seen as righteous. Please help us to live out this identity as we vulnerably walk through the days that you have appointed for us. Help us to love vulnerable people through our own vulnerability.



Chapter 9

Questions for Discussion

- How are we responsible for creating the demand for human trafficking? Have you taken the survey on slaveryfootprint.org? How many slaves work for you? How could you reduce your slavery footprint?
- What does the way that we spend “our treasure” say about our hearts?
- In this chapter, we discovered that each of us creates demand. Now that we know that watching pornography creates demand for commercial sexual exploitation, how can you respond?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, I have to admit that it's difficult to think about the areas where I feel weak. It's even more difficult to share these areas with others. As I look at my own painful memories, I am reminded of how you became vulnerable for me. Thank you for being with me in the darkest moments, even when I could not sense your presence. Like Paul, help me to be thankful for my weaknesses because it's through them that I'm strong.



Chapter 10

Questions for Discussion

- In chapter 10, Raleigh brings up our own fascination with discovering our own strengths. Why can an over-dependence on our strengths be detrimental to our growth as Christians?
- According to 2 Corinthians 12, why is your own “perceived weakness” important for your sanctification?
- Take a few moments and sketch out a vulnerability timeline. How has God shaped you through your experience of vulnerability?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, it is not a mistake that we come complete with vulnerabilities. But rather than seeing them as weaknesses, we are reminded that they point us to your strength! God, thank you for our vulnerability as it drives us to depend on you.



Chapter 11

Questions for Discussion

- What are your rhythms of rest, remembrance, and relationship? Sketch out a basic self-care approach. Make sure to think through self-care on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis.
- Why is important to become aware of our own desire for power?
- Diane gave an example of how she cares for herself. What are you doing this week to care for yourself?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord, we need you more than we could ever know. Give us the courage to look at our own vulnerabilities. Rather than run from them, help us to run to you with them. Show us how we love others through them. Show us how we can continue our healing process. Thank you for not only being an example of vulnerability but for being our motivation to be transparent before others.



Chapter 12

Questions for Discussion

- Why is important for us to think through how our past can inform our present?
- How do you think that the painful experiences of your past inform how you care for others?
- In approaching people from this perspective, how would you aim to keep healthy boundaries?
- How can you become more “incarnational” as you seek to care for your neighbor?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, after reading Emily’s story, I am reminded of all the stories that we haven’t heard—those who are currently exploited and feeling like there is no hope for them. Like Emily, help us to find common ground with others. Lord, we are reminded as we work through this book that it’s hard to look down on someone when you are standing on level ground. We know that you alone can truly empathize with our pain, because you lived in our place, died in our place, and rose in our place to represent us before the Father.



Chapter 13

Questions for Discussion

- Why is it so difficult to minister through our own limitations?
- In Luke 10:1-12, why did Jesus tell His disciples to take nothing with them?
How does that apply to us today?
- How does the imagery of “lambs amongst wolves” challenge our current idea of how we minister to others?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, I confess that often I prioritize my own comfort. I do everything in my power to avoid pain. Forgive me. Help me to see how you can use my weakness for your glory. Help me to follow you, even when you are leading me into the face of what I fear most. Thank you for using the very thing that I'm ashamed of to minister to others.



Chapter 14

Questions for Discussion

- How do you think racial injustice contributes to human trafficking?
- How can we cross the street and get to know our neighbors who may have a different cultural background than us? When have you “crossed the street” and cared for someone? Describe your experience.
- Darryl mentioned that vulnerability is the bridge that helps us cross the cultural barriers that often keep us separated. What would that look like in your community?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, you are calling your entire church to join you on this vulnerable mission. We can't do it without each other. Help each of us to cross the street. Help us to lay our biases and prejudices at the foot of the cross. In you, there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus. Help us to never forget this truth!



Chapter 15

Questions for Discussion

- Tim Keller writes, “Jesus taught that a lack of concern for the poor is not a minor lapse, but reveals that something is seriously wrong with one’s spiritual compass, the heart.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.
- Explain how dehumanization is at the core of all forms of exploitation.
- With whom can you collaborate to help those in your community this week?

PRAYER GUIDE

Lord Jesus, help us to love our neighbors. Forgive us for where we fall short. We admit that on our own, we will always prioritize our needs above those who are needy around us. For that reason, we ask you to change us from within. Give us a passion that can only come from you. Thank you for hearing this prayer! Lord Jesus, forgive us for our desire to be saviors. You are calling us to be neighbors and that seems to be the last thing on our minds. Help us to consistently love those around us from a posture of vulnerability.



Chapter 16

Questions for Discussion

- In this chapter, we discussed that it's important that we root our attempts at Christian social action in a robust theology of justification by faith. Why is it important to draw the distinction that we are "justified by our faith and not because of it"?
- Why is it important to preach law and gospel to yourself?
- Dr. Horton brings up the theology of the two kingdoms. How does a healthy view of this idea impact our social engagement?

PRAYER GUIDE

God, your law reveals that we are unable to fix all that is wrong with us. We are weak. We can't change our situations. But you came and became weak for us. You took the punishment that I deserved. God help me to remember this glorious truth every day. Help me to keep it in the forefront of my mind. As citizens of two kingdoms, may we serve those who are most vulnerable around us.

