



DISCUSSION GUIDE: WALKING PREY

Please refer to the Discussion Groups instructions before beginning

WALKING PREY • HOLLY AUSTIN SMITH

Number of sessions: 6

Time per session: 2 hours

Leader notes: this study includes viewing several videos. Be sure your group meets in a space that allows for that. Preview the videos in advance. Content may be inappropriate for some audiences.

Suggested preparation

- ▶ Invite 8 to 16 of your friends and family (depending on the size of meeting location)
- ▶ Send out email or Facebook messages with the details three weeks in advance and again the week before you plan to begin so that your audience knows what to read in advance of the first meeting
- ▶ The more people coming, the longer the sessions may last
- ▶ Suggest to your group to buy the book (new or used) from Amazon
- ▶ Highlight information and parts of the text that are meaningful
- ▶ Provide snacks!

First Meeting: Prologue, Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ What is your name and why did you want to become a part of this book discussion?
- ▶ Do you have any questions on what any of the terms mean?
- ▶ Were you shocked by anything? Why?
- ▶ What do you think of the quote, “As a society, we often seem to care more about protecting our cultural ideal of childhood innocence than about meeting the actual needs of real-life children-especially commercially sexually exploited children”? Page 36
- ▶ What are your thoughts on the term “Willing Victim?”
- ▶ What are some risk factors you have in your family or you notice around you?
- ▶ On page 29 there are many statistics, is there anything that stands out to you and why?

Second Meeting: Chapters 3, 4 & 5

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ What are some of your community’s contributing risk factors?
- ▶ What can you do in your community to decrease these risk factors?
- ▶ What are your thoughts on today’s media?
- ▶ Reflecting on chapter 4, do you support today’s media?

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- ▶ Share one or more of the following music videos with your group. These are pop culture examples of hit music that are acceptable to our society. Pay particular attention to the visuals AND the lyrics.

Robin Thicke's Blurred Lines (*Explicit Content Warning*)
This song has the largest radio audience in history and was a #1 single in 25 countries.

[https://www.vevo.com/watch/robin-thicke/blurred-lines-\(unrated-version\)/USUV71300526](https://www.vevo.com/watch/robin-thicke/blurred-lines-(unrated-version)/USUV71300526)

Miley Cyrus' We Can't Stop (*Explicit Content Warning*)
This song hit #2 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in 2013.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrUvu1mlWco>

Big Boi-Mic Jack ft. Adam Levine (*Explicit Content Warning*)
Popular spring 2017 release

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAhOumyEJOE&t=92s>

- ▶ How can we protect/support our children exposed to today's media messages?
- ▶ The author states on page 74, "Like a sponge" referring to how she took in the messages of the media around her
- ▶ How do you think your children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews take in the media today? Why/Why not?

Third Meeting: Chapter 6 (this may be a short session)

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ What was your first reaction to, "My body was an object; its sole purpose, I believed by that point was for sex."? Have you ever felt this way?
- ▶ On page 88 the author states, "Perhaps he thought it was OK because he was seeing and hearing the same media messages that I was." Thoughts? Have you considered the perspective of the pimp before this quote? Why/why not?
- ▶ On Page 88 there are song titles listed that glamorize pimp controlled prostitution. Why are/were these songs popular? Can you think of any songs today?
- ▶ Google "Objectification of women in media" and click Images to share examples of advertising for discussion in this session

Fourth Meeting: Chapters 7 & 8

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ Do you disagree or agree with the quote "entry into prostitution is more of a 'slide' than a gigantic step"?

- ▶ Why do you think she felt "empowered by prostitution"?
- ▶ Were you shocked to learn that pimps will tattoo their women? Why/why not? Have you seen this before?
- ▶ Why do you think "She felt born to be a prostitute"?
- ▶ What are your thoughts on John School? Would that be enough or no?
- ▶ What could help these men?
- ▶ On page 107 she states she learns two things. Why do you think she understood these two things now?
- ▶ How has she changed from the beginning of her journey to now?
- ▶ Have you heard of trauma bonding? Does this surprise you?
- ▶ How did you react to the policeman's quote on page 110, "You weren't raped, you're a prostitute."?

Fifth Meeting: Chapters 9 & 10

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ How has your viewpoint changed through this book? Or has it?
- ▶ How has this book impacted you?
- ▶ Have you heard of some of these terms before?
- ▶ •On the bottom of page 116 to the top of page 117 it states the pimp and customer make the prostitute believe it is her choice for several reasons? What are those reasons? Why are the reasons different between the customer and the pimp? Do you disagree or agree?
- ▶ Page 118 has more terms. Discuss terms.
- ▶ Chapter 9 defines three different versions of trafficking. What are your thoughts on each one? Is there one "worse" than another?
- ▶ What shocked you the most?

Chapter 10

- ▶ Why do you think the officer treated her poorly?
- ▶ Do you blame him? How would you react to a prostitute before and now?
- ▶ How did you react when her father called her a "whore"?
- ▶ How would you feel if you were in her situation in the police station?
- ▶ Did you know manipulation could be to this extent?
- ▶ Do you agree or disagree with "Child sex trafficking is a symptom?" Why/why not?

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Sixth Meeting: Chapters 11, 12 & 13

- ▶ Gather in a circle for introductions
- ▶ If you were diagnosed with BPD would you want to know at a young age? Why do you think they did not tell her of her diagnosis?
- ▶ What was the difference between her hospitalization the first and second time? Why?
- ▶ Did you know children could have PTSD?
- ▶ What are your take-aways from this study?
- ▶ What can you do to support victims of sex trafficking?
- ▶ Review Ascent121.org>Survivor Services to learn more about what our agency offers in community-based care, residential care and aftercare.
- ▶ Be sure to review the Appendices of this book with your group:
 - > Resources for Parents and Victims
 - > Resources for Law Enforcement
 - > 10 Tips for Teens for Protection Against Traffickers
 - > 10 Tips for Parents to Protect Your Children
 - > Tips for Teachers and Counselors

Next steps:

Congratulations on completing your study! Discuss as a group what you would like to do next. There are many options on the Ascent 121 website for service projects, volunteering, continued learning and upcoming events.

Learn more about trafficking legislation in Indiana on the Learn page at Ascent121.org.

If your discussion group is mostly men, go to <http://sharedhope.org/join-the-cause/become-a-defender/the-defenders-pledge/>

to read about the Defender's Pledge. This is an excellent way for men to take a stand in the effort to combat trafficking.

Thank you to the Ascent 121 volunteers that assembled this content. We appreciate their dedication to educating our community.

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