

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

INTRODUCTION

Have someone read aloud this introduction above. Sit with those statistics, before opening in prayer.

You may know it as Gender-Based Violence. Or perhaps Crimes Men Commit. Whatever you call it, there is a brutal reality to living as a woman in South Africa. Between April 2018 and March 2019, 2771 women were murdered (meaning a woman is murdered every 3 hours). There were 41,583 reports of rape. And many women do not report rape (some areas estimate only 1 in 13 rapes are reported). South Africa is not a safe place for women.

How can believers in Christ be part of forging a new future? For a country that has 70% of residents claiming some form of allegiance to Christ, we have to admit we are falling far short of the part we are to play in forming and sustaining a safe environment for women and children in our nation. So, who do we need to be and what is it that we need to be doing? What does our context tell us? What does the life of Jesus show us?

SESSION ONE

RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THIS SESSION

- Bibles
- Copies of [Jesus and Women](#) article (or have people follow along on their phones)

OPEN IN PRAYER



Pray for open hearts and minds. Ask God to give new revelation and for the Spirit to work and make us more like Jesus in this specific area of giving. Ask God to guard hearts and wounds that might be sitting in the room from Gender Based Violence as you discuss this topic..



WARM UP

ASK THE GROUP

- What are your initial thoughts about this topic? Were you aware of these statistics and this justice issues in South Africa?
- (if a mixed group) Have women in the group share their view on the subject and potentially how they see the issue around them.



ACTIVITY

READ TOGETHER

- [Jesus and Women](#) article

Use this article and scriptures to lay a common understanding of the topic and why this is a big justice issue in South Africa.

ASK

- What's something you found interesting in this article?
- Pick out a few scriptures or stories mentioned in the article – read, reflect and discuss their context and how Jesus interacted and treated women.
- How do you think Jesus would respond to the issue of violence against women if he were in South Africa today?



LAST IMPRESSION FEEDBACK

Take one last round of feedback from the group.

Ask them to give you a one or two sentence answer to one of these questions:

- What are you leaving tonight thinking/feeling?
- What does this mean for you/your family?
- What are your questions to research or next steps to take?



CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray as a group for the thoughts and feelings that have been stirred as you've studied God's Word. Ask God to open eyes and hearts to how you can respond.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...

If your group enjoyed this topic, consider having this conversation carry on for another week-prep work for the second session is listed next.

If you decide to conclude this discussion now, please refer your group to the Common Good resource page for more reading and interacting with this topic and more!

commongood.org.za/resources

HOMWORK FOR SESSION TWO

Read articles:

- Listen to this [sermon on Gender Based Violence](#): We'll discuss this in our next meeting.
- Browse other articles and resources on the [Common Good resource page](#) about this topic. Dive in and learn more

SESSION TWO

INTRODUCTION

After one week of looking into the topic of Violence Against Women, we hope this week's discussion will lead to practical ideas and ways we can respond both corporately and individually.

RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THIS SESSION

- Refer to this [sermon on Gender Based Violence](#) from homework



OPEN IN PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts to what you want us to hear from you. Teach us how to act. Show us by Your Spirit how we can be your disciples.



ACTIVITY

Chat about the Homework

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What were some notes you took on the sermon you listened to?
- Was there anything that you want to specifically point out as a way The Church can respond?
- How is the Spirit asking you to respond in your daily life?



LAST IMPRESSION FEEDBACK

Take one last round of feedback from the group.

Ask them to give you a one or two sentence answer to one of these questions:

- What are you leaving tonight thinking/feeling?
- What does this mean for you/your family?
- What are your questions to research or next steps to take?