



# Kashi's<sup>\*</sup> Story

## Family Resources Guide

*\*A pseudonym. Stock photos of actress used to protect survivor's identity.*



# Meet Kashi.

Three days before her 17th birthday, Kashi put on a school uniform for the first time in her life. She had only been five when she was trafficked the first time - her childhood was effectively stolen from her.

After spending more than a decade enslaved, she is now a courageous advocate, a leader who is speaking out against trafficking to protect others. It is her incredible story that we are honoured to share with you and your family.

Enclosed you'll find activities that your family can do together to explore the themes of justice, compassion and courage. We hope that you're inspired and that it leads to meaningful moments as you listen and respond to Kashi's story together.

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- **Children's Activity:** Break the chains of injustice
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## A Note for Parents

Thank you for being brave. Helping your child engage in a dark world, with such pain, is a scary thing. We hope that this resource will be helpful for you to share as much as you feel is appropriate for your child. After all, you know them best.

The following story and activities are designed for you and your child to discover together.

Take the time to become familiar with Kashi's story so that you can make any adjustments that are necessary. It's up to you.

We are grateful for you: your voice, your influence and courage. Because of you, Kashi and others like her are free. Because of you, more heroes in our world will emerge!



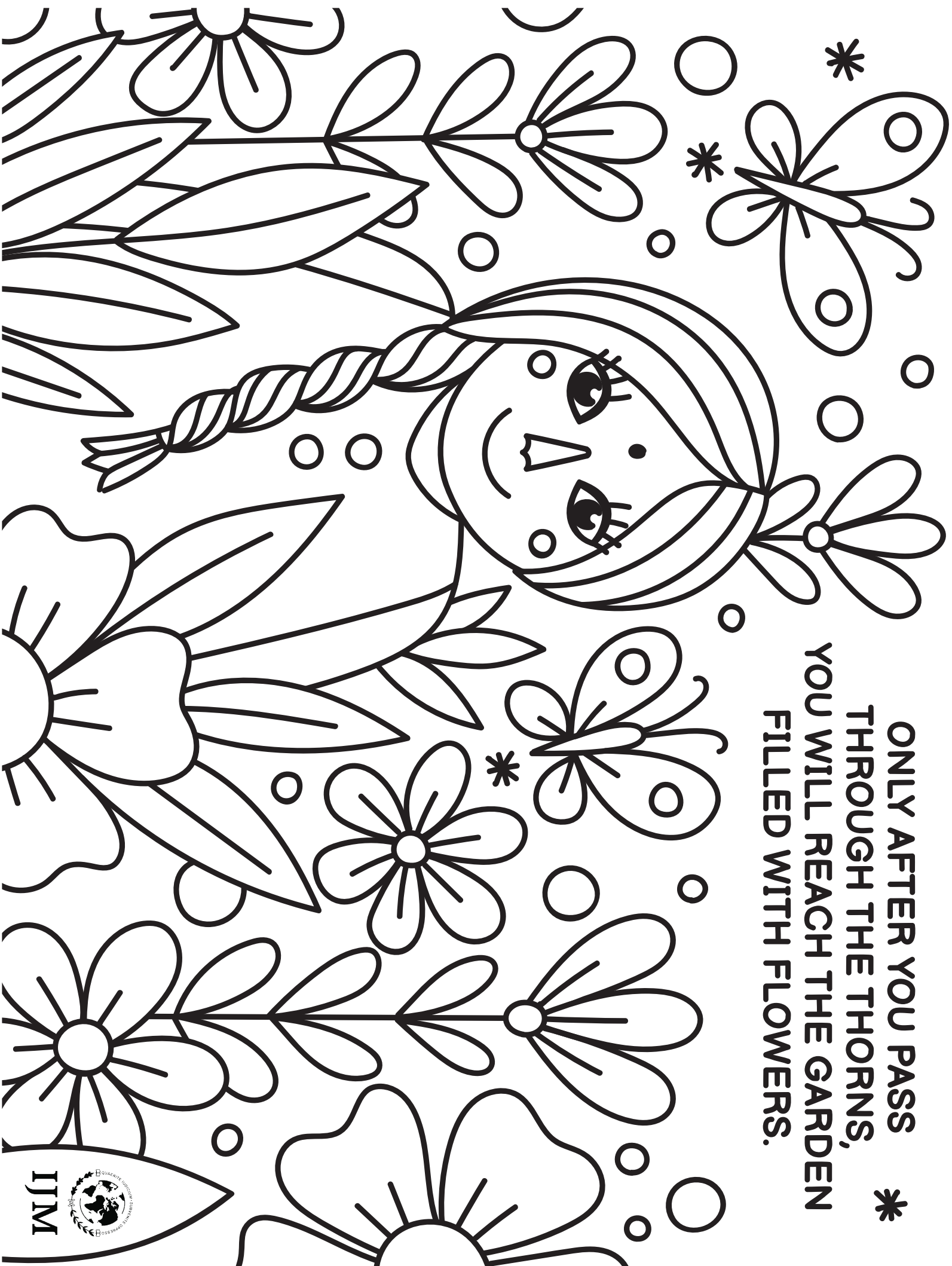
HEAR KASHI IN HER OWN WORDS: [www.IJM.ca/meet-kashi](http://www.IJM.ca/meet-kashi)

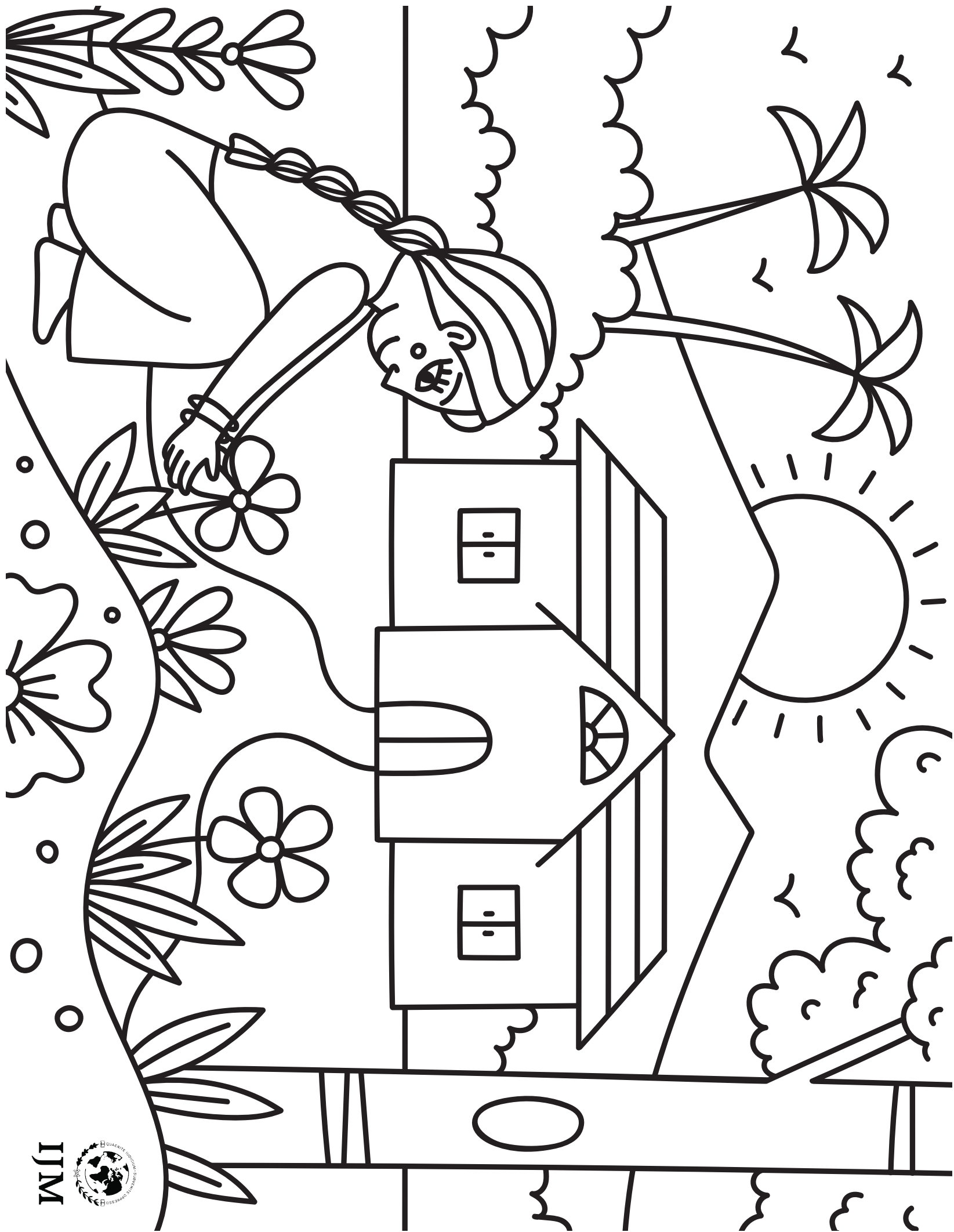
# Colouring Pages for Children and Adults

*Share your works of art with us! Find us on Instagram at @IJMCanada.*



ONLY AFTER YOU PASS  
THROUGH THE THORNS,  
YOU WILL REACH THE GARDEN  
FILLED WITH FLOWERS.









*I will be known as the girl who*

*gives*

*every*

# Children's Activity

## BREAKING PAPER CHAINS

To help your child understand the story of Kashi and to discover how to help, use this activity and discussion questions. The activity is to create a paper chain.

### HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED:

- Paper: If you have construction paper that's great, if not any paper will do.
- Crayon: A dark colour, or any writing utensil.
- Glue Stick: Or tape or staple to make your chain links.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Before you begin the activity, read Kashi's story together. (*page 5*)
2. Cut the paper in 4 long strips.
3. Ask the child the four questions below and write the answers on the strips.
  - How do you think Kashi felt when she had to leave her home to go work for a family she didn't know? Write down the word you would use. (i.e. sad, afraid, mad).
  - Kashi couldn't go to school, play with friends, see her family and was locked in a room all alone. Was Kashi free? Write down a word that describes someone who isn't free. (i.e. prisoner, slave, trapped).
  - How was Kashi treated in the home she lived? Write down one thing that happened to her. (i.e. bad names, hit, hurt, abused).
  - Did Kashi ever think she would be free? What word could you write down for how Kashi must have felt? (i.e. helpless, hopeless, sad, worried).

4. Once you've written down their answers, help the child connect the links together with glue to create a 4-link paper chain.

Note: This chain represents being held captive and some of the hurtful things that children like Kashi need to be rescued from.

5. Say: "Chains are bad and bring pain and keep people from being free. This chain is full of pain." Have them read the words they have written down on chains or read it for them.

Ask: "Do you want to break this chain? Do you think God wants you to break that chain?"

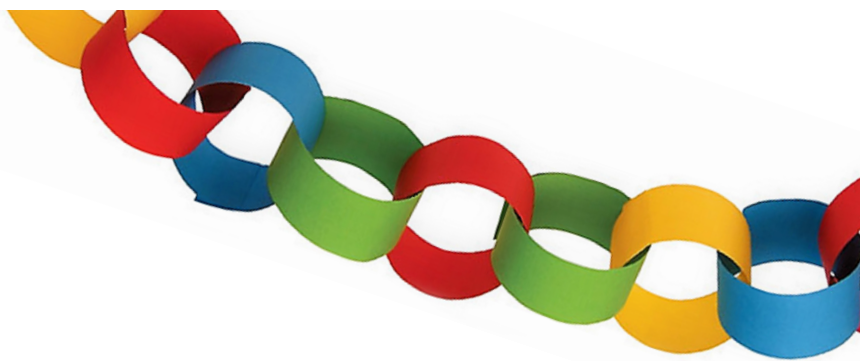
Say: "You can break the chain, but before you do, let's memorize this verse together." Say the verse out loud together, repeatedly, until your child can do it alone. (Make sure to include the scripture reference so they'll always be able to find it.)

"Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people." Psalm 82:4

6. Say: "God wants us to be 'chain-breakers' to rescue men, women and children who are enslaved by evil people, like Kashi was.

Ask: Do you want to be a chain breaker? Then break that chain!

*(more on the next page)*





# Children's Activity, Continued

## TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

Read the following section to your child and discuss these ideas together.

How can I rescue and be a chain-breaker?

### PRAY

Your prayers are powerful and effective – they break chains! Ask God to help you and other chain breakers find and rescue more kids like Kashi. Try writing out a prayer right now!

### TELL OTHERS

Say, “You can help others become chain breakers by telling Kashi’s story and the memory verse you learned.” Help the child think about who and where they could tell Kashi’s story and verse.

### HELP OTHERS

There may be kids around you who need a friend, someone who will be kind and honest and stand with them when they are sad or scared.

### RAISE MONEY

The heroes that rescued Kashi had the things they needed to be successful. Those things cost money. You can help raise money to donate to IJM and help other rescue operations be successful.



**START A FUNDRAISER:** [www.IJM.ca/Fundraise](http://www.IJM.ca/Fundraise)

# Kashi's Story

Have you ever seen a garden of flowers? They are filled with colour and beauty, but sometimes thorny weeds grow in the garden, and if left alone, they take over the garden and make it ugly and thorny.

Our world is like that garden. It has wonderful and beautiful heroes and terrible villains. Sometimes, like those thorny weeds, people can become unkind, very mean, and extremely selfish. You may have heard stories like Cinderella, who was mistreated by her evil stepmother, or Gaston trying to kill the beast so he could force Belle to marry him in Beauty and the Beast.

These stories help us understand that our world isn't always a nice and safe place, especially for people who are very poor.

Kashi was very poor. When she was only five, Kashi was forced to work for a very mean family. Much like Cinderella, she had to clean the house, help prepare meals; she would work, work, work all day long. No one was nice to her.

Kashi wasn't given much food to eat, the people would call her names and hit her, and she was locked away in a small room when she wasn't working. Sometimes, bad people would come to the house and mistreat Kashi too.



Life for Kashi was sad, lonely, scary and painful – for 10 long years. Unlike Cinderella, there were no talking mice or singing birds to comfort her.

One day when Kashi was 15 years old, she was sold to live and work in another place where people mistreated her too. Kashi was miserable and losing hope. Kashi felt as if she grew up as the only flower in a garden that never had any flowers, only thorns. She hoped that someday her story would change and that she would be set free. She never really thought it would come true, until it did!

Little did she know, there was someone trying to find her. A whole team of investigators and social workers at a place called International Justice Mission (IJM) knew that God loves girls like Kashi. So, they made a plan to find her and bring her to safety.

## THE HAND BEHIND THE CURTAIN

A month or so after Kashi was sold, the IJM team along with the local police came to the place she lived but she was nowhere to be found. The villain had hidden Kashi behind a curtain against the wall in hopes that Kashi would not be found.

Thinking she was not there, the rescue team turned to leave, but something made the IJM social worker turn back and take one more look. And then she saw it! A little hand sticking out from the curtain as if to say, “I’m here, I’m here!” Kashi was rescued. God had answered her prayers and she was taken to live with people who would help her, take care of her and most importantly – love her. She was finally free.

## KASHI, THE HERO

Kashi was and is so brave. She was so afraid as she stood behind that curtain, and so courageous to risk sticking her hand out to be seen. She

had experienced so much pain and fear and hopelessness for too many years. But, because of God's heroic faithfulness, her story changed. Good people, other heroes who love and trust Jesus, went looking for her, and found her.

Now she is free to be a hero for many others. Today Kashi protects others by boldly sharing her story on the radio for her community, in front of leaders in her nation, and now, the world.

#### YOU CAN BE A BREAKER OF CHAINS

You can be a hero too! In the Bible, God tells us what he wants us to do for children like Kashi, "Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people." (Psalm 82:4)

When we trust God and ask him for his help, we get to be heroes and break the chains of slavery.



**READ HER FULL STORY:** [www.IJM.ca/kashi-journey](http://www.IJM.ca/kashi-journey)



# Youth Discussion Guide

We hope this guide is helpful for your pre-teen to process Kashi's story and the reality of violence and slavery in the world. We recommend that you and your child do this together.

## COLOURING AND CONVERSATION:

- Print out the colouring pages.
- Gather crayons or markers or pencil crayons.

*Note: Some young people may feel as if a colouring page is a bit too young for them, however it can be a terrific companion to discussion. Early adolescents often need to fidget with things or do an activity like playing catch or for this example, colouring.*

*Print out the pages before you watch the video and take some time to sit down afterwards to colour the pages together. While colouring, talk through the guide below. You may want to flip the script and have them lead you in the discussion.*

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Kashi's story and/or watch Kashi's video together.

*Note: Take a moment to watch the short video beforehand to make sure it's age-appropriate for your child.*

2. Colour and or engage in discussion.
3. Be sure to include a challenge to memorize one of the closing scriptures to reinforce God's call on our lives.
4. Encourage them to try one of the provided action steps or to come up with an idea of their own.

**WATCH KASHI'S VIDEO:** [www.IJM.ca/meet-kashi](http://www.IJM.ca/meet-kashi)



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

Kashi\* was only five years old when she was forced to live and work in a home with a family she did not know. Sometimes, it may be easy to dismiss this story since Kashi lives in a place so far away and so different. Sometimes these stories feel like they aren't real, or that these bad things just happen in those types of places.

- How do you feel about her story?
- Is it easy or difficult for you to grasp the reality of it? Why or why not?

The hard truth is this story is not that unique. Our world is full of Kashis. As a matter of fact, there are over 40 million children, women and men around the world who have been enslaved. That is more than the population of Canada! Could you imagine if all the people who lived in Canada were forced to live in slavery?

- Why do you think Kashi was able to be sold and abused so easily?
- Do you think some people are afraid of mistreating people who are poor? Why, or why not?

*(more on the next page)*

Slavery is against the law all over the world, but it is a law that is not enforced in many parts of the world. 40 million people are living in slavery but there are even more people who live their lives with absolutely no protection from the law or police. They have no 911, no police to call for help, no one to protect them from violence. People who are poor are often mistreated and taken advantage of for the personal gain of people in power or with money.

- Do you think it is okay for children like Kashi to live in a world where bad people have no fear of being punished for abusing the poor or making people their slaves? Why or why not?
- What could be done about it?

Kashi dreamed of being rescued. She dreamed that one day she could have a life where she could be loved, go to school and be safe – but she never really thought it would come true.

Thankfully, this world does not only have people who choose to bring violence and pain but also those who love and trust Jesus with their lives and seek to do good. There are people who have a heart and a passion to pursue justice and quickly answer God's call see justice carried out.

Some special people actually seek out children like Kashi and protect them like those who work for International Justice Mission. One day, through the powerful prayers of God's people and God's grace an IJM investigator found Kashi and her dreams came true!

#### SCRIPTURE:

God speaks often about how we should treat one another and how we should meet needs and protect people in poverty. Here are a few verses you may want to consider putting to memory:

- Psalm 12:5 "Because the needy are oppressed, and the poor cry out in misery, I will rise up," says the LORD, "and give them the help they long for."
- Proverbs 14:31 "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God."
- Psalm 82:4 "Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people."

# Youth Discussion Activity, continued

## TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

Did you know you and your family can help more kids like Kashi have their hopes and dreams come true. To help them find rescue and freedom? Read through the following opportunities and choose at least one to focus on or come up with your own idea.

### PRAY

Sign up to be a prayer partner. Your prayers are powerful and effective – they bring rescue! Ask God for him to protect and rescue more kids and families. Try writing out a prayer right now!

### TELL OTHERS

Ask your parents/guardian to help you decide who and where you could tell Kashi's story. You can be part of our team by telling Kashi's story and about how important it is to help protect people who are in trouble and need help, even others who live nearby.

### HELP OTHERS

There may be kids around you who need a friend, someone who will be kind and honest and stand with them when they are sad or scared.

### WRITE YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Your words matter, regardless of how old you are. Sometimes being young can even help your words be louder than others. Your local news outlet would love to post or print a "letter to the editor" sharing the story of Kashi and kids like her around the world who need help. You can make an appointment to go speak to a Member of Parliament and ask them to make sure human trafficking and modern slavery ends.

### RAISE MONEY

The heroes that rescued Kashi had the things they needed to be successful. Those things cost money. You can help raise money to donate to IJM and help other rescue operations be successful.

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*The real Kashi (face obscured for protection) records the narration for the illustrated film.*