

Lesson 12 / February 21, 2010

He's Got the Power . . . and Mercy

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 12 Focus:

Jesus uses His power
and mercy.

Lesson 12 Bible Basis:

Mark 5:1-20

Students will make decisions about showing power and mercy to prepare them to learn about Jesus' perfect balance of the two.

Materials:

- plain white paper (one for each student)
- markers

As students arrive, give each one a piece of paper and a marker. Ask them to write the word power in large letters on one side and the word mercy on the other. Then read each of the following scenarios out loud. At the end of each scenario, ask students to hold up either their power sign or their mercy sign, depending on which they would choose to use in that situation.

Scenario 1: You are a school principal and a student comes into your office who is known to be a bully. The teacher who brings him in says that he's been caught stealing lunch money from the littlest kid in the class. What do you do?

Scenario 2: You are the coach of the middle school girl's basketball team. One of your players (who is not very good at basketball) made a mistake that caused your team to lose a very important game. The other players on the team want you to cut this player from the team? What do you do?

Scenario 3: You have just come home from the grocery store and you are helping your parents unload groceries from the car. As you come back out of the house to get another load, you see that a homeless person has stolen a loaf of bread out of one of your grocery bags while you weren't looking. The person is heading down the sidewalk with your bread. She's getting away, but you could still catch her. What do you do?

ACTIVITY OPTION: Find movie clips that depict a scene in which a character chooses to demonstrate either mercy or power. Stop the scene just before the decision is made and allow the students to flash their signs, indicating what they would choose to do. For example, show a scene from *The Ten Commandments* in which Pharaoh has the opportunity to either release the Israelites or keep them enslaved. Or show the scene from *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* where Faramir could have his archers shoot Gollum, but Frodo asks him to show mercy, saving Gollum's life.

Lesson 12
Memory Verse

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline

—2 Timothy 1:7

Ask the following questions after each scenario:

- ▶ **How many of you would show mercy in this situation?**
- ▶ **How would you do that?**
- ▶ **How many of you would use your power in this situation?**
- ▶ **How would you do that?**

In the last few minutes you've had to decide between showing mercy and using your power. It is often hard to decide which one to use. But when Jesus walked on this earth, he had the perfect balance of power and mercy. He used them both! Let's find out how.

[Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*. Your step 4 appears below.]

For an additional video clip about showing mercy, go to:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQAjxGG9D8Q>

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He's Got the Power . . . and Mercy

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STEP 4

Lesson 12 Focus:

Jesus uses His power
and mercy.

Lesson 12 Bible Basis:

Mark 5:1-20

Lesson 12 Memory Verse

For God did not give
us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of
love and of self-
discipline

— 2 Timothy 1:7

Students write prayers to God, asking Him to show up in their lives with His power and mercy.

Materials:

- power/mercy signs from Step 1
- pens or pencils

Have your students retrieve their power/mercy signs from Step 1. Use them to write prayers to God about His power and mercy. Say,

Think of something you want to say to God about how awesome His power is. Write that prayer on the “power” side of your sign.

Allow a minute or two for students to think and write.

Now, think of one reason you need God to show up with His power in your life. Write a prayer asking him to do so on the “power” side of your sign.

Again, allow time for students to write their prayers.

Think of one reason you're thankful for God's mercy. Tell him about it by writing a sentence or two on the “mercy” side of your sign.

Give them time to think and write.

Is there a situation in your life or the life of someone close to you that needs God's mercy? Write a short prayer asking God to come with his mercy into that part of your life on the “mercy” side of your sign.

Allow time for students to complete this exercise, then close in prayer, thanking God for his power and mercy in your own life and the lives of your students. Agree with them in their prayers for God to make His power and mercy real in their lives this week.

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