

## Lesson 2

### JESUS SHOWED COMPASSION IN HIS MINISTRY

**Lesson Scripture:** Mark 1:23-42

#### **Review for Older Students:**

How do we know that God loved even the wicked people of Nineveh?  
They deserved punishment. How did God show them His compassion and mercy?  
What happened when Jonah preached to them?  
How did God respond?  
Why was Jonah angry?  
What is God's final plea to Jonah?

#### **Younger Students:**

Who did God send to Nineveh to warn the wicked people?  
When they repented, what did God do?  
How did God feel about the people of Nineveh?  
How do you know God wanted to forgive the wicked people of Nineveh?

#### **Beginning the Lesson:**

Review-Last time we were together we learned that God showed compassion and mercy to the wicked Ninevites when they repented. Jesus also showed compassion in His ministry.

**Mark 1:40-42, Luke 22: 47-51, Luke 23:33-34, 35-37, 39**

#### **Main Points of the Bible Lesson--**

- 1. Mark 1: 40-42 Jesus showed compassion by touching a leper and healing him.**

#### **Read:**

40 Now a leper came to Him, imploring him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, "If You are willing, You can make me clean."  
41 Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, I am willing; be cleansed."  
42 As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

#### **Explain:**

Jesus showed His love not only by healing the leper, but by TOUCHING him. Leprosy was thought to be a very contagious disease. Lepers were considered unclean. By law they had to live away from other people. Jesus must have understood that the man was not only very sick, he was very lonely, too. He was an outcast. Jesus showed compassion not only by healing him, but also by touching him.

#### **Showing What Happened:**

Children all reach out their hand as if to touch a leper, saying, "I am willing."

**Sing & Dance:**

Jesus touched the leper!  
Jesus touched the leper!  
Oh, what compassion!  
Jesus touched the leper!

**2. Luke 22: 47-51 Jesus showed compassion by healing a man's ear when the man was coming to have him arrested and crucified.****Read:**

And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.

48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"

50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him."

**Explain:**

Jesus healed many people, but to understand the significance of this event, we have to remember when it happened. Judas had just betrayed Jesus. Jesus was being arrested. He knew He would soon be tortured and crucified. Yet He was not thinking of His own suffering, but of the well-being of one of those who had come to have him arrested. This is the reason this act of compassion is so amazing.

**Showing what happened:**

Four children act out the story: Jesus, Judas, servant of high priest, man who cut off ear of servant.

**Sing & Dance:**

Jesus touched the bloody ear  
He put the ear back on the man's head  
Oh, what compassion!  
Jesus put the man's ear back on.

**3. Luke 23:33-34 Jesus showed compassion by forgiving and praying for those who were torturing Him and crucifying Him.****Read:**

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

**Explain:**

Even when Jesus was suffering and dying on the cross, He was still thinking of others. He was still showing compassion, even for those who were causing Him such pain. He prayed for them. He asked God to forgive them.

**Show What Happened:**

Children hold their arms out as if they are Jesus on the cross. They groan to show they are in pain. Then they say, "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."

**Sing & Dance:**

Jesus prayed for those who hurt Him  
In a time of awful pain  
Oh, what compassion!  
Jesus prayed for those who hurt Him.

**4. Luke 23:35-37, 39 Jesus showed compassion for US by staying on the cross and paying the punishment for our sins.**

**Read:**

35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,

37 And saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself."

39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

**Explain:**

Many around Jesus ridiculed Him for not doing a miracle and coming down from the cross. The One who cleansed lepers could easily have come down. But there was a reason He chose not to come down from the cross. He needed to die there in order to pay the punishment for our sins so that He could be our Saviour. He could have saved Himself only if He were willing to let us be eternally condemned. He showed compassion for all of us by staying on the cross and completing the sacrifice that God would accept to take away all our sins.

**Showing What Happened:**

Children hold their arms out as if they are Jesus. They say, "I'll stay on cross! I'll save them from their sins! I know there is no other way! I'll save them from their sins!"

**Sing & Dance:**

Jesus stayed on the cross  
He wouldn't save Himself  
Oh, what compassion  
Jesus stayed on the cross  
To save you and me.

### **Application for the Saved Child**

**Discuss:** What kinds of people did Jesus show compassion for? (Be sure the following points are raised—the sick, the unlovely, the outcast, the lonely, His enemies.) What are some kinds of people that are hard for you to show compassion for? Why?

Ask some students to pray, asking God for His strength to show compassion to a specific person or a specific group of people this week.

### **Invitation--Giving the Unsaved Child an Opportunity to Receive Christ**

Jesus forgave those who were nailing Him on the cross. Yet He wasn't on the cross just because someone nailed Him there. He could have come down any time. He stayed there because He knew He needed to pay the punishment for our sins so we could be forgiven. He died for you, and He rose again for you. He will save you today if you will trust in Him. If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, but today you would like to do so, pray this prayer in your heart right now. (Teacher, lead in the sinner's prayer, found in the preface to these lessons. Then ask those who prayed to raise their hands briefly. You pray for God's blessing on them.)