



6

Service

We make a difference when we serve others.

POWER TEXT

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

KEY REFERENCES

- Mark 1:40-45
- Matthew 8:2-4
- Luke 5:12-16
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 27, pp. 262-266
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 37, 38
- student story on page 72 of this guide.

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES**The students will:**

- **Know** that we can be filled with compassion for others like Jesus was.
- **Feel** compassion for those in difficult situations.
- **Respond** by reflecting Jesus in seeking ways to show compassion to others.

Touching the Untouchable



**Showing
compassion to
others is one
way to serve
God.**

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A leper who is shunned by all in his community comes to Jesus for healing. Filled with compassion, Jesus meets the leper’s need for human contact by touching the leper before healing him, thus touching the untouchable. The leper is healed immediately. Although Jesus sends him away with the instruction to keep his healing a secret, he testifies of this miracle to others.

This is a lesson about service.

Just as Jesus met the human needs of the leper, so we can meet many of the needs of society’s “lepers” today. We are His hands, His arms around others, His eyes and ears, reflecting Him as we seek ways to show compassion to society today.

Teacher Enrichment

Leprosy was probably the most hopeless of all diseases in Jesus’ time. Physically, it destroyed the body’s signal system for pain, resulting in burns, cuts, and other forms of injury. The leper’s skin fell off; fingers, arms, toes, and legs died and dropped away. Socially, lepers were shunned and rejected by society, condemned to death in isolation. The Jews even thought they would be contaminated if a leper’s shadow fell on them. “The Jews . . . regarded leprosy as a divine judgment on sin. . . . Hence they made no efforts toward alleviation or cure; . . . they knew no remedy . . . only isolation” (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 573). Thus Jesus risked physical and social contamination by touching the leper.

The leper had three problems. “As far as is known, there was no record of such a healing since Naaman’s, some 800 years before. A second obstacle . . . was the popular belief that he was under the curse of God. . . . The third obstacle presented a more practical obstacle. How could he get near enough to Jesus to present his requests? The ritual law strictly forbade him to approach or mingle with others, and wherever Jesus went the people thronged about Him” (*ibid.*).

(See *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 265, 266, and Leviticus 13 and 14 for more on the purification rite directed by the priests.)


Which student of mine do I feel is unlovely? How will I show compassion toward him or her this week?

Welcome



Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week.

(The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. 

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Compassion Remembered</i> B. <i>Incurable Disease</i>	Bibles, paper, pencils, colored markers Bibles, paper, pencils
 Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	Bibles, songbooks, world map, pushpins, glove
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	Bibles, "lepers" Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles, white/chalkboard, marker/chalk, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	<i>Scenario</i>	Bibles
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	<i>Reflecting Compassionate Hands</i>	Bibles, paper, pencils
 Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

LESSON 6

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

Compassion Remembered

Say: **Compassion is when someone really knows what you're going through. Think back to a time when you were sick, hurting, or sad, and someone was compassionate toward you. Now, draw something that illustrates the situation.**

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils
- colored markers

Debriefing

Ask for volunteers to share what they drew. Ask: **How did you feel when someone treated you with compassion? How is that experience like how Jesus treats us?**

Allow students who know the power text to say it either individually or in group:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Have the entire class repeat the power text together. Allow visitors and students who don't know it yet to read along. Affirm them for their effort. However, do not single out students by forcing everyone to say it, nor reprimand those who don't know it. Sabbath School is a place where students need to feel comfortable and accepted as they grow in God's grace.

Say: **Let's remember:**

🔊 Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.

B

Incurable Disease

Say: **Pretend you have been told you have an incurable disease and you have six months to live. You can't go home to live with your family, because the disease is contagious. Write down how you would feel and what you would think. Would you try to seek treatment anyway? What things would you miss about your home and family?**

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils

Debriefing

Ask: **Who will share what they wrote? Can you imagine you would be lonely and feel rejected? Many people in our world today are lonely and rejected, not because they have diseases either. Jesus healed lepers who were "untouchable." He ate with "sinners" who were rejected by the religious groups. Jesus touched people's lives by becoming involved.**

If you have not done Readiness Activity A, review now with the students the power text, 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4, as outlined in the previous activity.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Say: **Since God is the "Father of compassion" to us:**

🔊 Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.

Accommodations for students with special needs:

Students with learning disabilities may need help with spelling. Allow them to work with a partner who can assist them.



Prayer and Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

- "Take These Hands" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 127)
- "We Are His" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 140)
- "Love Is in Your Hand" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 134)
- "I Want to Be Like You" (*Praise Time*, no. 90)
- "Touching Heaven, Changing Earth" (*Praise Time*, no. 22)

Mission

Show pictures of disaster scenes or houses from other countries. Say: **Sometimes it's good to remember that knowing Jesus can transform our world even more than building new houses. Let's see how our mission to the world is going.** Use *Adventist Mission Magazine/Youth and Adult* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Help students have a heart for the needs of the world.

Offering

YOU NEED:

Say: **When we give offerings, we are giving to help others by supporting those who can touch them physically. We are using this glove to collect the offering as it represents our hands serving others.** Continue to use a plastic or cloth glove to collect the offering this month.

glove

Prayer

YOU NEED:

Read aloud the following: **"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).** Then, to show students one way to practice this principle of compassion, organize the class into pairs. Have them pray the Lord's prayer, inserting their partner's name ("Give Kathy this day her daily bread," etc.).

Bible

* Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

LESSON 6

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- "leper"

Invite someone to enter the classroom at the designated time dressed as a person with leprosy from Bible times. Hands and face should be covered so that no one can recognize the person. Introduce the person to the class as someone who has leprosy and act as though you don't want to be near that person. Ask the "leper" the following questions: **How does your disease affect your everyday life? How do people react when they see you?**

Then explain to the class that the topic for this week's lesson touches on how we treat such individuals in everyday life. Say: **Let's say the power text, 2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Say: **Since God is the "Father of compassion" to us:**

 **Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.**

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- paper
- pencils

Have the students take turns reading aloud from Matthew 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; and Luke 5:12-16. Say: **Imagine that you are with Jesus when the leper approaches Jesus and receives healing. Write a journal entry for that evening, describing what you saw, how you felt, and what happened.**

Ask for two or three volunteers to share their journal entries. Then ask: **What would you think if you could see Jesus heal someone, immediately, right in front of your eyes? Lepers were outcasts. Nobody even wanted to be near them for fear of catching their disease. How concerned was Jesus about this? What was Jesus concerned about? Who do you know who is an "outcast" in your community or school?**

Accommodations for students with special needs:

Students with learning disabilities may need help with writing. Allow them to work with a partner who can assist them.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Exploring the Bible

Write the following texts on the board.

Divide the students into six groups.

Say: **Let's look at some texts that talk about being compassionate to different types of people. Identify each**

type of person and think of ways that we can show compassion to them.

1. Job 6:14 (people who despair, who are afflicted).
2. Isaiah 22:4 (people who weep, who mourn).
3. Psalm 35:13 (people who are concerned because of sickness).
4. Proverbs 19:17 (people who are poor).
5. 2 Corinthians 11:29 (people who are weak, who are led into sin).
6. 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26 (people who suffer).

Ask: **Where will we find people like these today? What will you do personally to be more compassionate to these people this week? Remember that:**

🔊 Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Have students with certain learning disabilities and those with visual impairments sit close to the board for this activity. Alternatively, prepare in advance for these students a handout with the list of Bible passages.

YOU NEED:

- Bibles
- white/chalkboard
- paper
- pencils
- markers/chalk

Scenario

Read the following scenario to your students.

A friend of yours gets irritated when he sees people who are homeless, especially when they are asking for money or are offering to work for food or money. When he sees them he thinks (and sometimes says), *Why can't they just get a job? They are so lazy. I would never do that if I were them. They don't really need help.*

Debriefing

Ask: **Do you sometimes feel this way too? What would you do or say when you feel this way?** Have someone read Philippians 2:1-5. Ask: **What counsel does this text give us? How does this passage help you? How could you help your friend? What can you do to help him have a different outlook? How could you share the power point with your friend?**

🔊 Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.

YOU NEED:

- Bibles

4

SHARING THE LESSON

- **YOU NEED:**
- Bibles
 - paper
 - pencils


Reflecting Compassionate Hands

Have students share if they had a chance to call a friend and discuss the meaning of Romans 12:15 “rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” Did they come up, together with their friends, with a list of specific ways they could apply in practice the principle outlined in this verse?

Say: **Let’s read Matthew 8:14-16 to ourselves. Then say: Jesus was filled with compassion for Peter’s mother-in-law and those who came to Him for healing. He reflected God in showing compassion to those in need. Think of at least three ways in which you can reflect Jesus’ compassionate hands to others. Trace around your hand on a piece of paper and write the ways you can use your hands to touch people’s lives. Get a partner and share at least one of those ideas with them.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What ways did you think of to share Jesus’ compassion with others? How will you serve others? Remember that:**

 **Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.**

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, thank You for being our wonderful example of how to touch people’s lives. We want to be like You in showing compassion for others. Please give us the opportunity to serve You. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents’ Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus feeds the people. Jesus is able to provide for our needs.**

Notes

Student lesson

Touching the Untouchable

Have you ever had the measles or chicken pox and were so sick that you thought you would never get well? Maybe no one came to see you for fear that they might catch whatever you had. Maybe you went to a hospital for a long time. Can you imagine what it would be like if you were so sick that you could NEVER go home again?

It was a face everybody turned from in horror: deformed appearance and very little expression in the dull, unblinking, sand-crust-ed eyes. The man had nothing to live for. This was the face of a man with leprosy.

From the day he was forced to leave his wife and children because of his illness, people ran away when he warned them by shouting "Unclean! Unclean!" This was the rule God had given to Moses, and everyone followed it. He didn't wonder about the rule. The truth was, he didn't want anyone else to get this terrible disease.

Through the years this man had caught glimpses of his family from a distance, but he couldn't hug them. He had almost forgotten how wonderful a warm and loving hug could feel—almost, but not quite.

From time to time he heard rumors of someone called "Jesus" who was supposedly going from town to town healing people. It seemed too good to be true, and too outrageous to be believed, as most rumors were. And

yet, in his desperate situation, the leper chose to believe. What could it hurt to believe in a good rumor?

Finally, one day, the leper's chance came. He pulled his rags over his face and crept behind a large rock, watching from a distance as Jesus and His close friends moved slowly down the dusty trail into town. Soon they were close enough to the leper that he knew he had to make his move or lose his chance forever. He jumped up and hurried toward Jesus, waving his hands in the air and shouting to get the attention of the miracle worker.

He skidded to a stop and knelt down right in front of Him. He didn't dare look into Jesus' eyes. He just said very humbly with his face to the ground, "If you are willing, you can make me clean" (Mark 1:40).

As the man knelt there with his face to the scorching sand, he sensed the heat rising to his head. But his face, which could not feel anything, sensed no pain. Suddenly, however, the man did feel something, something he had wanted to feel for so long. Somebody touched him! He was aware of a warm hand on his back.

The man began to remember how good the hugs of his family and friends had felt so long ago. He held his breath. Surely Jesus was more powerful than the disease, for Jesus was not afraid to touch him. Did this mean Jesus would heal him? The

leper's heart raced with hope.

Jesus said gently, "I am willing. Be clean!" (verse 41).

All of a sudden the man started to feel that the sand was hot on his face. He held out his hands and saw that the white, nerveless areas were gone. He touched his hands to his face and felt his nose with his fingertips for the first time in years.

Then Jesus gave the man a stern but gentle warning. Perhaps Jesus put His arm around the man's shoulders as He spoke. He asked the man to show himself to the priests so they might see that the sores were gone, and to offer a sacrifice for purification. Jesus also charged him not to tell anyone what had happened.

The man may have nodded. But this was too good to keep secret. He must have jumped and danced in and out of the shops on his way to the Temple, touching the things he hadn't touched for so long—cool brass pots and rough woven baskets; soft, flowing silks and the warm necks of donkeys. "Jesus did this," he must have explained. "Jesus made me well again."

Finally the man walked into the doorway of his home. Can you imagine how his family must have gasped? And then, at last, I am sure his wife and children put their arms around him for the first time in many years. Together again. Home at last.

KEY REFERENCES

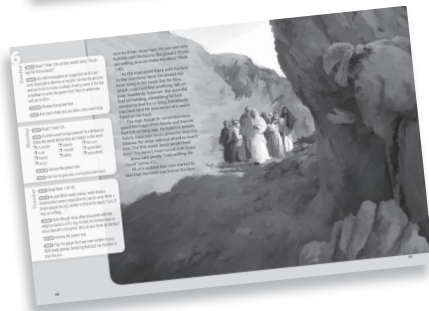
- Mark 1:40-45
- Matthew 8:2-4
- Luke 5:12-16
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 27, pp. 262-266
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 37, 38
- Our Beliefs nos. 4, 22, 11

POWER TEXT

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

POWER POINT

Showing compassion to others is one way to serve God.



Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read 1 Peter 3:8 and this week's story, "Touching the Untouchable."

MAKE Use old newspapers or magazines to find pictures of people in distress or trouble. Cut out the pictures and use them to make a collage, leaving room at the top or bottom to write the power text. Place it where you will see it often.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you see others who need help.

Monday

READ Read 1 Peter 3: 9.

FIND Find the word "compassionate" in a dictionary. Check the words below that are related to this word:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> charitable | <input type="checkbox"/> popular | <input type="checkbox"/> humane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cruel | <input type="checkbox"/> merciful | <input type="checkbox"/> appreciated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> honest | <input type="checkbox"/> selfish | <input type="checkbox"/> sympathetic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> angry | | |

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you a compassionate heart.

Tuesday

READ Read Mark 1:40-45.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a situation that seems impossible for you to solve. Write a simple prayer to God, similar to that of the leper: "Lord, if You are willing, . . ."

THINK Even though Jesus often disagreed with the religious leaders of His day, He told the healed leper to show himself to the priest. Why do you think He did this?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray the prayer that you have written in your Bible study journal, believing that God has the best in store for you.

Wednesday

READ Luke 5:12-16.

WRITE Why do you think that the news about this miracle spread everywhere? Write your answer in the Bible study journal.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for wisdom about the best way to help others.

Thursday

READ Read Philippians 2:1-5 and Romans 12:15.

PHONE Phone a friend and ask what they think it means to "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

LIST List five specific things that you and a friend can do to live out the principle of this text.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for compassion to serve others.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 8:2-4 with your family.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family for worship.

REPEAT Repeat the power text by memory.

THINK Think of two examples from the animal kingdom in which different species help each other to survive. How are these two situations like a Christian who helps others? How are they different?

PRAY Thank Jesus for His wonderful example of compassion to others.