

## LESSON 6 SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

When we want others to be punished, Jesus shows them mercy.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn “I can show mercy the way Jesus does.”

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Luke 9:51-56 & Mark 3:13-19, Mercy

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3

**SUMMARY:**

Sometimes we want others to receive punishment for their sin and we forget that we have received mercy and forgiveness. James and John talked about bringing fire from the sky to destroy a city that is full of sin. But Jesus gave them the nickname “Sons of Thunder” playfully pointing out the fact that Jesus loves everyone. He even shows forgiveness to those who desire to punish others for their mistakes.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Help us to forgive and show mercy to others the way that you do that for us. Help us to remember that salvation is a gift for everyone who will accept it!

In Jesus’ name,  
Amen

## MEMORY VERSE

“My goal is that their hearts may be encouraged and strengthened. I want them to be joined together in love. Then their understanding will be rich and complete. They will know the mystery of God. That mystery is Christ. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIRV)

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

“I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (NLT)

“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3 (KJV)

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Ask for 3 volunteers to come up front and lead the kids in reading the memory verse together on the big screen. Then ask each volunteer to answer this question, “What is one example of being joined/united/knit together in love?” When they are finished sharing their examples give one more. “Another example of being joined with others in love is to forgive them for their mistakes the way Jesus has forgiven us.”

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Read the verse to the kids. Say, “We all need our hearts to be comforted by Jesus!” Ask them to think of one mistake/sin they have made recently. Tell them to keep it in their head. Then ask them to think about who this mistake has affected. Maybe it affected their parents, themselves emotionally, or their friends/siblings. Next, ask them to pray a prayer in their head and ask Jesus for forgiveness from that sin. Finally, explain how we can forgive one another the same way Jesus has forgiven us. Ask, “How would it make your friend feel if you refused to forgive them. How would you feel if someone refused to forgive you? We don’t need to be like the sons of thunder and punish people around us for their mistakes. Jesus taught John and James a better way...forgiveness and mercy!”

## SKIT

### Okay, That's Funny!

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Two bongo drums

Two flashlights

#### CHARACTERS:

Scott

Bill

#### CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Wilderness expert – Scott

Wilderness expert – Bill

Begin with Scott and Bill standing center stage.

SCOTT: Welcome back campers! I'm Scott.

BILL: And I'm Bill. Today we will be teaching another amazing lesson on being out in nature!

SCOTT: These past weeks have been a lot of fun. God's creation is so beautiful. It's awesome to learn how to survive out in the wilderness, what to do if you're camping, and how to relate to the wildlife around us.

BILL: But today we are going to talk about the inevitable storms that come.

SCOTT: Yes, the not-so-perfect scenarios that can occur.

BILL: Have you ever been on a walk and the wind picked up?

SCOTT: Or out on the beach and you saw dark clouds moving your way?

BILL: Perhaps you were at the pool and you heard thunder in the distance.

SCOTT: Storms have a way of alerting us that they are coming.

BILL: If we pay attention to the signs, we can take steps towards safety.

SCOTT: The first thing you want to do when you notice a storm coming is to find shelter.

## SKIT

BILL: Yeah, don't be like me. One time I ignored the signs and I ended up soaking wet!

SCOTT: Okay, that's funny! When did that happen?

BILL: I was hiking on a trail and I heard the thunder in the distance but hoped it would go the other way. Instead of getting in the cabins that I passed, I kept climbing. Well, by the time I got to the top of the mountain I was drenched.

SCOTT: Yeah, that's funny! But that's also dangerous. Lightning strikes in high places, you should have been going down the mountain.

BILL: Whoops!

SCOTT: Today we are going to practice. So, you know what to do when you notice wind picking up, dark clouds rolling in, or hear thunder coming.

BILL: When you hear the sound of thunder rumbling, I want you all to hide under your chairs or if you're not on a chair, get down on the ground as low as you can. Are you ready?

SCOTT: Here we go. What a beautiful day. Oh...what's that over there? I see some dark clouds in the distance.

BILL: Let's listen to see if we hear any thunder...

(Bill and Scott begin to lightly tap on their drums.)

SCOTT: It sounds pretty far away...

BILL: Oh wait, I think it's getting closer.

(An adult volunteer shuts off the lights. Bill and Scott bang on their drums really loud. Then they flash their flashlights off and on to be like lightning. Then they tap on their drums more quietly, the lights come back on, and it's over.)

SCOTT: Great job everyone! You found shelter!

BILL: The best thing you can do with lightning like that is to be down low.

SCOTT: It was so important to talk about what to do in case of a thunderstorm. I can't

## SKIT

wait for next week though. Let's just say we'll be having a rocking time!

BILL: I can't wait either! Adios friends!

End Scene

## OBJECT LESSON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

A piece of candy (And a bowl of candy for the end of the lesson)

Mmmm, mmmmm, mmmmm! Look at this delicious candy. I think it looks pretty good, don't you? What if I was to say that there was a classroom full of kids and the teacher said that everyone who behaved would get a piece of candy? How would that be? Would that get you excited?! As much as that is exciting, it's not exciting for the kid who misbehaves, is it? There is a consequence for the kid who does something wrong. And while all the other kids are enjoying a piece of candy, their punishment is not getting a piece. Pretty disappointing!

In life, there are consequences for our choices. When we make a good choice, there are often blessings. When we make a mistake, there are often negative consequences that happen. In the end, God is the judge and He decides what happens. Amazingly, even when we sin, He has offered us forgiveness for those sins! Even though there is often a natural consequence for our mistakes, we can receive God's forgiveness and grace. The ultimate punishment of death is taken away and we get to be in heaven with God one day. Even though our body dies, our spirit stays alive and we receive a new body in heaven! Jesus showed us how this would happen by rising from the dead!

But back to this candy...because we all know that's what we're thinking about. When you notice a friend sinning, making a mistake, doing something wrong to you, or being bad, it's easy to feel like they deserve a punishment. Isn't it? Especially when they sin against us. We want justice! We don't want them to get a piece of candy when they haven't earned it! But the thing about forgiveness and grace is that even though we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we have received forgiveness. We still get the ultimate prize. And it's way better than a piece of candy that only lasts for a few minutes. It's eternal life!

If Jesus is willing to forgive us, we should be willing to forgive one another. We shouldn't wish judgment and punishment on one another. No matter how much they have upset us. Because we realize that it could have been us making that mistake. We all mess up sometimes. We are all in need of grace. Instead of being happy when your classmate misses out on a piece of candy for misbehaving, we can have compassion on them. We can tell them we are sorry for what happened and encourage them to try again next time. Maybe even tell them a time when we made a mistake to help them see they aren't alone. Maybe they deserved the punishment of no candy, but we deserve no different. We aren't perfect either. Let's all have compassion and mercy on one another in the way Jesus does on us! We can forgive and forget sins. We can start fresh each day. And the times that everyone does get a reward, let's celebrate together and be happy for one another.

## OBJECT LESSON

Just like now while I pass around a piece of candy for each of us. We can rejoice with one another in the good times and we can be there for one another in the bad...the way Jesus is for us.

## LARGE GROUP GAME

### **Weather the weather!**

#### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Bongo Drums, Flashlights, Dryer Balls, Spray Bottles of Water, and Fans  
Posters and Permanent Markers  
Several large tables, chairs, and other things you can use as “shelter”.

#### **ADVANCED PREP:**

Make 5 posters. One that says, “Sunny”, “Rainy”, “Stormy”, “Windy”, and finally, “Snow and Ice.”

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Tell the kids that today it is “every man for himself”. There are no teams and it is up to them to pay attention to the weather so they can weather the storm and do what they need to do to survive! Begin by holding up the “sunny” sign and telling kids to take precautions depending on what the weather is. For instance, if it is a sunny day, they can walk around and chat with friends. But if it is an ice storm, they might want to find shelter!

About every minute, change what the weather is by holding up a new poster. Have several adult volunteers helping so that you can have one person on the posters and one or two creating the weather. When it’s stormy there will be bongo drums playing, the lights will go off, flashlights will flicker and there might even be a fan going. When it’s rainy, kids might get sprayed with water if they aren’t under shelter. When it’s windy a few fans will go on. When there is snow an ice dryer balls of snow and hail will get thrown around at the kids who aren’t under shelter. Change the weather to each one several times and increase the amount of difficulty with extra balls or louder thunder towards the end of the game for an exciting effect.

#### **VARIATIONS:**

N/A

#### **WHAT’S THE POINT?**

How did you weather the weather? Was it a challenge? Storms come into everyone’s life at one time or another. When they do, we should be there for one another, not happy about other people’s misfortune. Today we will learn about two brothers who wished thunder and lightning to come down and destroy a city. Jesus had something else in mind!

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **TAGLINE:**

When we want others to be punished, Jesus shows them mercy.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn “I can show mercy the way Jesus does.”

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Luke 9:51-56 & Mark 3:13-19

### **INTRO:**

Today has been pretty funny. Has anyone got caught in a windstorm created by a fan? How about a snowstorm that was made up of dryer balls! Maybe you got spritzed by a water bottle. Okay, that’s funny! But being caught in a real storm would not be funny. Not having shelter to hide from a storm is a real problem. And not having God in our hearts is a huge problem for us too. We all need Jesus! We all need his love and forgiveness for our sins. We all need a relationship with our heavenly father so we can rest in his hands when things are difficult. Without God in our lives, we are missing out on a loving father who can protect us and help us through difficult things. If you want a relationship with Him, He is calling you to Himself today. All you have to do is pray this prayer. “Dear Jesus, please forgive me for my sins. I need a savior. Thank you for loving me and never leaving me. Help me to go to you whenever I need help. In Jesus name, Amen!”

Today we are going to hear about how Jesus handled a couple of brothers who were a little too excited about punishing other people. Jesus came to the earth to forgive us, not to punish us. And these two brothers didn’t quite understand why Jesus was there. They thought He had come to destroy all the sinners. Thank God, He didn’t. Because everyone is a sinner except for Jesus. And even those two brothers who wanted a whole city destroyed for sin, would also have been destroyed because they weren’t perfect either.

Okay, that’s funny! How is it that these brothers could see the sin of a whole city but not see the sin in themselves? That reminds me of the lesson of the log in the eye all over again! ANYWAY. Let’s dive in and read what happened.

### **READ LUKE 9:51-56 & MARK 3:13-19**

### **MAIN POINT:**

So, what exactly happened here? Jesus was not being welcomed by a city of people. John and James, who were brothers, thought Jesus would want them to destroy the city by calling down thunder and lightning from heaven. They had it in their head that because these people were sinning against Jesus, that they deserved a punishment. They didn’t think much differently than we do, did they. When we notice someone does something wrong, we often think they should be punished. But when we ourselves make a mistake, we think we should receive forgiveness. Something here is a little off, wouldn’t you say? Something is sounding a bit funny!

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

Jesus saw this for what it was. The brothers noticed the city's sin but not their own. He rebuked them and then led his disciples to another city instead. This means, Jesus told them they were wrong. Even though all sinners deserve punishment, Jesus had come for another reason. He had come to save us from the punishment that we deserved for our sins, which was death. He had come to give us forgiveness and eternal life in heaven with God.

John and James were then nicknamed "the sons of thunder". It was kind of a funny name that Jesus gave them. Not only was it funny, it was a reminder to them of the fact that they were NOT GOD. Only God decides judgment. They were not in a place of authority to call down thunder and lightning to destroy a whole city because they were also sinners.

Do you see the irony here? Do you see why this was so funny? We can call them THUNDER BUDDIES! The word buddies take the fear out of the word thunder. These two brothers, these two buddies are just two guys who have no authority. They are not powerful and mighty like God. It's just humorous to think about it. Thunder buddies! Thunder win powers – Activate! What can you do to us? You are just as much sinners as the rest of us.

### **DRIVE IT HOME:**

As you can probably imagine, this was very humbling for John and James. They recognized their sin for what it was. They realized that it was not their place to judge other people because they were also deserving of God's punishment. Jesus had a different idea. He came to save us from our sins, not to condemn us! He showed us God's true character which is love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, and peace! Aren't you glad Jesus didn't let John and James bring punishment on that city? Aren't you glad that God sent His son Jesus to die in our place and take on the punishment that we deserved? Jesus has mercy for those we desire to punish too.

WHEN WE WANT OTHERS TO BE PUNISHED, JESUS SHOWS THEM MERCY! WE CAN SHOW MERCY TO ONE ANOTHER THE WAY THAT JESUS DOES. Let's say this together so we remember how important it is to love one another and forgive one another. "I CAN SHOW MERCY THE WAY JESUS DOES." I CAN SHOW MERCY THE WAY JESUS DOES! Let's not be the running joke like John and James were and get a funny nickname like THUNDER BUDDIES! Instead, let's show one another grace because we were shown grace by our Lord Jesus. Let's wish one another well. Let's celebrate with one another in the good times and mourn with one another in the bad. We are on the same team. People are not our enemies, Satan is. So, let's act like a team and route for one another. WE CAN SHOW MERCY THE WAY JESUS DOES! Let's pray.

### **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Help us to forgive and show mercy to others the way that you do that for us. Help us to remember that salvation is a gift for everyone who will accept it!

In Jesus' name, Amen

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

### ICEBREAKER:

What is one GOOD thing you wish for a friend or family member? What's another GOOD thing you wish for someone who has been unkind to you?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 2:2-3

Read the verse to the kids. Say, "We all need our hearts to be comforted by Jesus!" Ask them to think of one mistake/sin they have made recently. Tell them to keep it in their head. Then ask them to think about who this mistake has affected. Maybe it affected their parents, themselves emotionally, or their friends/siblings. Next, ask them to pray a prayer in their head and ask Jesus for forgiveness for that sin. Finally, explain how we can forgive one another the same way Jesus has forgiven us. Say, "We don't need to be like the sons of thunder and punish people around us for their mistakes. Jesus taught John and James a better way...forgiveness and mercy!"

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Ahead of time, using masking tape, mark a line down the middle of the floor long enough for all the kids to fit on it.

Have the kids line up on the line. Challenge them to pay close attention to what you say. If you say, "Sun" tell them to jump to the right of the line. If you say, "Rain" tell them to jump to the left of the line. Begin calling it out slowly. Go back and forth and then mix up the order so it gets a little more challenging. Quicken your pace to make it even harder. If kids mix it up and jump to the wrong side tell them to laugh it off because "Okay, that's just funny!" and try again.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 9:51-56 & Mark 3:13-19

Why did Jesus nickname James and John the "brothers of thunder"?

Did Jesus come to the earth to save or to punish us?

How can we receive forgiveness from Jesus?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for having mercy on us and forgiving us for our sins.

In Jesus' name, Amen

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

### **ICEBREAKER:**

What is one GOOD thing you wish for a friend or family member? What's another GOOD thing you wish for someone who has been unkind to you?

### **MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:**

Colossians 2:2-3

Read the verse to the kids. Say, "We all need our hearts to be comforted by Jesus!" Ask them to think of one mistake/sin they have made recently. Tell them to keep it in their head. Then ask them to think about who this mistake has affected. Maybe it affected their parents, themselves emotionally, or their friends/siblings. Next, ask them to pray a prayer in their head and ask Jesus for forgiveness for that sin. Finally, explain how we can forgive one another the same way Jesus has forgiven us. Ask, "How would it make your friend feel if you refused to forgive them. How would you feel if someone refused to forgive you? We don't need to be like the sons of thunder and punish people around us for their mistakes. Jesus taught John and James a better way...forgiveness and mercy!"

### **SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:**

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Read Luke 9:51-56 & Mark 3:13-19

Why did Jesus nickname James and John "brothers of thunder"? What was so funny about it?

Did Jesus come to the earth to save or to punish us?

How can we receive forgiveness from Jesus?

Who is someone that I can forgive today?

### **SIMPLE PRAYER:**

Dear God,

Thank you for having mercy on us and forgiving us for our sins.

In Jesus' name, Amen

## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

The “sons of thunder” were quick to forgive and show mercy to the people of the city.  
FALSE

Jesus shows us mercy every day, by forgiving us for our sins and offering us a free gift of salvation.  
TRUE

When we notice someone has sinned, we can offer them forgiveness because Jesus has done that for us.  
TRUE

It is okay to wish ill on people when they have been bad.  
FALSE

We are all God’s children and even those who have sinned against us can be forgiven.  
TRUE

# MAKE IT STICK

OKAY, THAT'S FUNNY LESSON 6

5 SIMPLE WAYS  
YOU CAN MAKE  
THIS LESSON STICK  
WITH YOUR KIDS

## THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



### IN THE CAR:

When we desire someone to be punished, how does Jesus look at it? He shows them mercy and forgiveness for their sins. We can show other people mercy and forgiveness the way Jesus shows it to us. Luke 9:51-56 & Mark 3:13-19, Mercy



### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kid if they want to receive mercy and forgiveness when they make a mistake. Ask your kid how they treat others when they sin and make mistakes.



### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

What mistake did John and James make?

How can we avoid this same mistake?

Is there someone that God is nudging your heart to forgive today?



### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3



### PARENT TIME:

Jesus has mercy for those we desire to punish. He even has mercy for us when we desire the wrong things. Because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, instead of being quick to judge others, we can be quick to show them mercy. Encourage your children to forgive one another. Point to the cross and remind them of the reason for forgiveness. Help them see that we are all sinners and it is only by God's grace that we receive forgiveness and not punishment.

## TAKE HOME

**Supplies:** Construction paper, markers, and stickers

Instruct kids to create a card to give to their friend, family member, or even someone who has been unkind to them. Have them write on the front of the card, “I WISH YOU WELL!, I HOPE YOU ARE DOING WELL, or I’M PRAYING FOR BLESSINGS FOR YOU!” Encourage them to write a personal note and draw pictures of a beautiful sunny day with lovely scenery.

Say, “We can wish goodness, happiness, blessings, and joy for everyone around us, even those who have been unkind to us. This is because Jesus has given us forgiveness for our sins and given us so many blessings! None of us deserve forgiveness, but we received it as a free gift from God. Let’s spread that joy around and show others how much we love them and Jesus! Instead of thunder buddies, let’s be real buddies!”