

COVENANT — JESUS CHRIST

Disciples Called and Sent

LESSON 05

APRIL 05, 2026

LESSON TEXT

Mark 6:4–13; Luke 10:1–24

FOCUS VERSES

Mark 6:7, 12–13

⁷And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

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¹²And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

¹³And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

TRUTH ABOUT COVENANT

Jesus grants us His authority when we live in covenant with Him.

MY RESPONSE TO COVENANT

I will exercise the authority Jesus gives me when I am in covenant with Him.

COVENANT CONTEXT

After several chapters of Jesus' disciples witnessing His miracles, Jesus sent out seventy faithful followers to work miracles as He worked through them. Jesus was giving us a glimpse into what covenant relationship looks like when He empowers and sends us to do His work for His glory.

TEACHING OUTLINE

Icebreaker: Why is humanity often enamored with celebrity and fame?

Teacher Tip: Connect the group's answers to this account of Jesus sending unnamed followers to work miracles because they were faithful.

Lesson Connection: Share the Lesson Connection. **(I)**

I. JESUS EMPOWERED AND SENT THE TWELVE

A. Jesus Gave Authority to His Disciples

DISCUSS: *What specific work or ministry do you feel God calling you to do? If you have the power to do it, do you have His authority?*

B. Jesus Gave Detailed Instructions to Those He Sent

***DISCUSS:** In what ways may we better reflect outwardly the inner work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?*

C. Empowerment and Obedience Are Necessary in Our Lives and Ministry (**V**)

***DISCUSS:** How can you multiply your influence in the lives of others for the glory of God?*

II. JESUS EMPOWERED AND SENT THE SEVENTY

A. Jesus Sent More Than Just the Twelve

***DISCUSS:** What does it mean to you that Jesus is more interested in your faithful obedience than in your religious pedigree?*

B. I will live in covenant with Jesus and go where He sends me.

III. BY WHAT POWER

A. Jesus Has Power to Do the Miraculous

B. We Have Power Through Covenant Relationship with Jesus

C. I will exercise the authority Jesus gives me for the miraculous when I am in covenant with Him.

***DISCUSS:** Are you willing to be a vessel through whom God can work miracles and be glorified?*

Internalizing the Message

PRAYER FOCUS

Lead the group in prayer and consider the following topics of focus:

- For God to make us sensitive to hear His voice calling us and sending us
- For God to give us boldness to become active in His kingdom

LESSON CONNECTION

(I) Joseph de Veuster was born on January 3, 1840, in Tremelo, Belgium. When he was only thirteen years young, he was forced to quit school and work on the family farm. Six years later, he entered the ministry and chose the name Damien. His brother and fellow priest, Pamphile, fell ill and was not able to go on his mission to the Hawaiian Islands like he had hoped, and Damien volunteered to go in his place. He arrived in Honolulu on March 19, 1864, and was ordained as a priest on May 21, 1864, beginning his dedicated pastoral work on the island of Hawaii.

Seven years earlier the Hawaiian government had set up a leper colony on the island of Molokai. The lepers were isolated on a peninsula, kept away from everyone else, lest anyone else catch the contagion. Damien was a member of a four-chaplain team who ministered to the lepers on a three-month rotation, but after he met and ministered to the lepers, he decided to stay full time as their minister. He cared for their spiritual, physical, and medical needs as best as he could.

After more than a decade of selfless service, one day Damien discovered what he had doubtless feared for a while: he had contracted the disease himself. In a poignant letter, he expressed his deep connection with those he served by writing: “We, Lepers.” The beloved minister known as Father Damien died of complications due to leprosy on April 15, 1889, after sixteen years of selfless dedication. He was only forty-nine years old.

Like Damien, we are called to minister in a challenging place. We are called to minister in what some may consider Satan's territory. Since humanity broke covenant with God in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been working as the god of this world. (See II Corinthians 4:4.) Yet, we are called to minister to those afflicted by a disease far greater, more eternal than leprosy: sin. Interestingly the Bible often compares sin to leprosy because of how devastating it is on humanity. However, God has not sent us in the world unprepared or ill-equipped; He has given us the power to take back enemy strongholds and bring the kingdom of God into what once may have felt like the kingdom of Satan.

BIBLE LESSON

I. JESUS EMPOWERED AND SENT THE TWELVE

A. Jesus Gave Authority to His Disciples

Both Gospels of Mark and Luke record that Jesus sent His twelve disciples out, along with other dedicated followers, to do ministry He had taught them to do. He sent thirty-five pairs of disciples to spread the gospel and heal the sick: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come" (Luke 10:1).

Jesus was not less powerful now that disciples were able to see the miraculous; He was multiplying Himself so more people could do the works He was doing. Isaiah 42 is clear that God does not share His glory with anyone else, but He does empower His people to see miracles and wonders for His glory. Jesus empowered those with whom He shared a deep, covenantal relationship. Jesus was entrusting these faithful followers who had committed their lives and resources to the kingdom of God and empowering them with His power and authority to work miracles.

These terms, power and authority, are often used interchangeably, but they are not quite the same. For example, if you are a pilot and you board a plane you are not scheduled to pilot, you may have flown that aircraft for decades. You have the power to fly it, but you do not have the authority to fly that plane on that day because you are not scheduled. Authority is the rightful permission to wield power.

God does not just call us, but He bestows us with the authority we need to act in His name. The seventy sent followers did not send themselves; Jesus sent them. He gave them His power and He gave them authority to use it for His glory. We may have the power of God within us, but we must remain vigilant and seek spiritual guidance, patiently waiting for God's direction to show us how we should utilize the power He has granted us.

***DISCUSS:** What specific work or ministry do you feel God calling you to do? If you have the power to do it, do you have His authority?*

B. Jesus Gave Detailed Instructions to Those He Sent

During the time of Jesus, four major factions were vying for influence: Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and Zealots. Jesus engaged these groups, inspiring hope in some while provoking others to anger, creating a complex emotional landscape among the people. Each group sought to distinguish themselves from the others partly by the way they dressed. Their attire reflected their beliefs and social standings, forming a link between their expression of dress and their beliefs. For example, Zealots, fiercely anti-Roman and originating from Galilee, concealed small daggers in their garments to carry out assassinations as part of their militant rebellion.

Pharisees adhered strictly to Jewish law, often wearing phylacteries—small Scripture boxes—on their foreheads and arms. Some wore larger phylacteries to show off their devotion to God, cultivating an image of righteousness, which in many cases had soured to self-righteousness.

Essenes chose an ascetic lifestyle, so they withdrew from society and wore plain white robes to symbolize purity and their commitment to a disciplined spiritual life. Finally, Sadducees controlled the Temple in Jerusalem and dressed in luxurious robes, signifying their wealth and authority. Their clothing reflected their interests in aligning with Roman powers to preserve their privileged position.

When Jesus sent out the seventy, He provided specific instructions regarding their attire: “. . . take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats” (Mark 6:8–9). Jesus was making sure His followers were not mistaken for other religious groups. He wanted their identity to reflect His teachings, and He did this by commanding them what to wear and what not to wear.

***DISCUSS:** In what ways may we better reflect outwardly the inner work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? (V)*

C. Empowerment and Obedience Are Necessary in Our Lives and Ministry

Jesus gave His disciples the keys and let them drive. He gave them power and authority to cast out demons and pray for the sick to be healed, and they were healed. Mark 6 and Luke 10 both testify that the seventy disciples were so excited when they returned that they rejoiced for the miracles Jesus had worked through them. Up until that point, they had witnessed many miracles, but they were not involved with most of them.

But here, the disciples “cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them” (Mark 6:13). Jesus was multiplying Himself. He knew He would soon go to the cross and into the grave. He did not have much time left on this earth, so He multiplied His impact, His voice, His hands, His feet, and joyfully sent the disciples to do His work. Jesus called. Jesus sent. The disciples went. God worked miracles. God was glorified.

This formula may be simple, but its application is powerful. When we hear the call of God and go where and when He sends us, we go in divine power and authority. The interplay of obedience and empowerment reveals the beautiful covenantal relationship we share with God. He empowers us, creating a mutually beneficial bond. He uses us, He builds our faith, and He gets the glory. Our obedience and His power are essential; together, they make us strong against the enemy. If you feel powerful, it is because you are living in alignment with God. If you don’t, ask God to help you choose to obey Him.

***DISCUSS:** How can you multiply your influence in the lives of others for the glory of God?*

II. JESUS EMPOWERED AND SENT THE SEVENTY

A. Jesus Sent More Than Just the Twelve

As noted earlier, Jesus did not send just His twelve handpicked disciples; He appointed seventy others as well. Although we do not know all of their names, Jesus empowered them with the same power and authority He gave His disciples. These seventy traveled with Him, sometimes providing lodging, and in the case of Lazarus’s family, they became close friends of Jesus. Jesus intended to involve more people, showing that ministry is not about hierarchy

but responsibility. Further, Jesus rewards faithfulness. These followers were likely deeply devoted to His message, contrasting with those on the periphery who only benefited from His miracles. These individuals sought to be more than mere consumers of His teachings; they desired to be contributors.

Ministry is about responsibility, not the power of a select few. While some have greater responsibilities, no one is superior to another. God gives us diverse gifts for His glory, not ours. Although we all have these diverse gifts, the Spirit produces the same fruit in all our lives: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. (See Galatians 5:22–23.) By involving others, Jesus highlighted that covenant relationship is not elitist, unlike the religious leaders of His time who were vying for power and prestige. Covenant relationship is built on faithful obedience.

***DISCUSS:** What does it mean to you that Jesus is more interested in your faithful obedience than in your religious pedigree?*

B. I will live in covenant with Jesus and go where He sends me.

What a miracle to be in a covenant relationship with God! It means we actively live out God’s commandments in our daily lives. It means we actively share our faith in places God sends us and to the people to whom He sends us (as exemplified by the delivered man from Gadara). We are commissioned by God as His representatives in our world.

As the seventy soon learned, not everyone welcomes the gospel. Jesus understood and warned them: “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them” (Mark 6:11). Rejection is a real possibility when we share our faith. However, we share because we are called to be witnesses. We are not compelled to witness out of obligation but out of obedience to and love for Jesus Christ. Our mission is rooted in faith, responding to His call, and trusting that our obedience will fulfill His purpose, regardless of the immediate results.

III. BY WHAT POWER

A. Jesus Has Power to Do the Miraculous

The power of God is not subject to laws of nature, neither can humanity fully comprehend His power. After the seventy’s powerful and successful missionary journey, they returned to Jesus and exulted: “Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name” (Luke 10:17). Since they had followed Jesus for a while, they had stood wide-eyed and watched as Jesus exorcised demons time and time again. But when these faithful followers called on the name of Jesus, the devils fled because they are subject to the name of Jesus—namely, to the one who bears that name. His name carried his identity and authority. His identity was God, and His authority is unlimited.

Paul was right to write: “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9–11). There is no greater name known to creation than the name of Jesus Christ. When the disciples acted in His name, they wielded divine authority over evil and illness, showcasing the transformative power that

comes from being aligned with Jesus Christ.

B. We Have Power Through Covenant Relationship with Jesus

Although we do not live in the disciples' day, we have the same power and authority they wielded because we too are in covenant with Jesus. This covenantal relationship is a binding agreement that calls for mutual responsibilities for both parties' benefit. First, we are responsible for living according to God's Word. When we do, we honor and glorify God. In return, God graciously saves, protects, provides for us—benefits we are not worthy of.

But our relationship is deeper than mere contract because it is rooted in God's deep love for us. Jesus let the seventy know just how blessed they were. He turned to them and said: "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them" (Luke 10:23–24). That is the power of covenant relationship. Further, Jesus gave them the grand news: "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). Although watching demons and diseases flee is a wonder to behold, how much more ought we to rejoice knowing we are right with God and our names are written in Heaven.

C. I will exercise the authority Jesus gives me for the miraculous when I am in covenant with Him.

Life presents a multitude of messy and complex situations that can leave people feeling hopeless or trapped. Nevertheless, we are empowered by faith to rise above these challenges and exercise our divinely-granted authority to pray about such circumstances. Just as God has performed miracles in the past, He performs them still in the present.

Remember, miracles are not for entertainment or self-promotion. Ministry results are not platforms on which to gloat or grandstand. The working of miracles is born out of God's deep compassion for humanity. God is moved with compassion by people's needs, and when we respond with compassion and faith in God's power, we have a recipe for the miraculous.

***DISCUSS:** Are you willing to be a vessel through whom God can work miracles and be glorified?*

***Teacher Option:** Tell the story below or share one of your own to illustrate how God grants His authority to the faithful, not just the famous.*

INTERNALIZING THE MESSAGE

Francisco was far from an all-star. He made it to the big leagues, but only as a backup catcher. In 1992 his team, the Atlanta Braves, were in a dogfight against the Pittsburgh Pirates in game seven of the National League Championship Series. There would be no game eight: the winner advanced to the World Series, and the loser went home. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Atlanta came to bat trailing 2–0.

By the time there were two outs, the Braves had scored one run and loaded the bases. The next batter due up was Atlanta's relief pitcher, Jeff Reardon. The manager did not want to leave the season in the hands of a pitcher. He

looked around the dugout and found an unlikely candidate to hit in such a high-stakes moment. He chose Francisco Cabrera.

Cabrera had only batted eleven times in the entire regular season of 162 games. He was on the team to back up the Braves' starting catcher. Francisco was known more for his glove than his bat. But Atlanta needed a bat, and they called on Cabrera. He stepped into the batter's box, took two pitches, fouled off the third, and struck a line drive into left field. Two runs scored, Atlanta won game seven, and the Braves went on to play the Blue Jays in the World Series.

Francisco Cabrera was like one of the unnamed seventy whom Jesus sent to work miracles. He was not one of the well-known Twelve; he was just faithful and available, and his faithful obedience and willingness to step up when he was sent out earned him a championship just like all the Atlanta Hall of Famers. Jesus is attracted to faithful obedience, and when we respond when He calls, one day we will receive something far more valuable and beyond comparison to a meager sports championship: the words "Well done."