



Jaxson Harlan Ministry

I Called It Mercy

When we rename sin... and God still calls it by its name

01

LISTEN

Song + lyric hook

02

DIG

Mark 7 · Col 3 · Luke 12

03

TALK

Fear · comparison · idols

04

RESPOND

Confess · ask real mercy

AGES	13–18 (youth group / small group)
TIME	35–45 minutes
PAIR WITH	Chord sheet + Word message on greed / mercy
GOSPEL AIM	Call sin by its name; ask for mercy you cannot earn

Leader Guide

One song. Four movements. One gospel landing.

BIG IDEA

Greed (and every quieter hunger like it) starts in the heart. We dress it up as wisdom, hustle, or “just wanting more.” God still sees the roster. Real mercy is not the story we tell ourselves — it is the mercy we ask for and never made.

SESSION MAP

1. Warm open

5 min

Phone-down check-in. One fear that makes teens chase “more.”

2. Listen

8 min

Play “I Called It Mercy.” Hand lyric strip. Circle lines that hit.

3. Dig Scripture

12 min

Mark 7:21–23 · Colossians 3:5 · Luke 12:15–21 (rich fool).

4. Talk honest

10 min

Fear / comparison / idol cards. Keep it concrete, not abstract.

5. Gospel respond

8 min

Name it. Confess it. Ask for mercy that doesn't get paid.

YOU'LL NEED

- Speaker + “I Called It Mercy” (jaxsonharlan.com/music)
- Printed Student Sheets (page 4) + Truth Cards (page 5)
- Bibles or printed Mark 7 / Col 3 / Luke 12
- Optional: chord sheet for worship open/close

LEADER NOTE

The Word message behind this song uses a public fraud case. For youth, keep the focus on the heart: scarcity fear, comparison, and renaming sin. Mention headlines only if your group is ready — the song already carries the weight.

Teaching Flow

Say this / ask this — usable script, not a lecture.

LISTEN — LYRIC HOOKS

“You called it mercy, child / He called it by its name”

“Comparison is a quiet fire / It makes a palace out of plenty”

“If You’re the God who sees the hungry / Then You see this beggar too”

After the song: “Which line named something true about your world?”

DIG — THREE PASSAGES

Mark 7:21–23

Greed rises from the heart — same well as other sins. It is not “just money.”

Colossians 3:5

Pleonexia (wanting more) is idolatry. A rival god promising safety and identity.

Luke 12:15–21

Life is not abundance of stuff. Barns cannot keep a soul. God still knocks.

TALK — THREE HEART CHECKS

SCARCITY FEAR

What are you afraid will run out — money, likes, control, being enough?

COMPARISON

Whose life makes yours feel like an insult right now?

IDOL

What have you asked grades, image, or stuff to do that only God can do?

GOSPEL LANDING

Man can punish what he can prove. God sees the first quiet lie. The good news: the same Lord who requires an account also gave His Son for thieves. You do not manufacture mercy. You ask for the mercy you never made — and He is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9).

Student Sheet

I Called It Mercy · fill this while you listen & talk

Name _____ Date _____ Group _____

1. CIRCLE THE LINE THAT HIT HARDEST

- ☐ You called it mercy... He called it by its name
- ☐ Comparison is a quiet fire
- ☐ I wasn't born a thief at dawn / I was born afraid of empty
- ☐ There's a God who sees the roster
- ☐ Ask for the mercy you never made

2. MY QUIET "MORE"

What do I chase so I won't feel empty? (be honest — grades, image, stuff, control, applause...)

3. SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Mark 7

What rises from the heart?

Colossians 3

Why is greed called idolatry?

Luke 12

What couldn't the barns keep?

4. RENAME → REAL NAME

WHAT I CALL IT

WHAT GOD CALLS IT

5. ONE HONEST PRAYER

"God who sees — here is the hunger I've been renaming. I ask for the mercy I never made..."

Truth Cards + Take-Home

Print · cut · keep in a Bible or locker

Cut along the dashed lines. Two wallet cards + one fridge verse.

TRUTH CARD

God Sees the Roster

*"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight." —
Hebrews 4:13*

You can rename the hunger. He still knows the name.

TRUTH CARD

Ask for Real Mercy

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just..." — 1 John
1:9*

Ask for the mercy you never made. That is the gospel.

FRIDGE / LOCKER VERSE

**"Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."**

Luke 12:15

This week: when "more" whispers, ask — Who is on the throne?

Jaxson Harlan Ministry · Song-to-Scripture · I Called It Mercy

How this sits on the site

Visual map for the Resource Hub expansion

WHAT YOU HAVE NOW

Colouring pages

Kids visual entry

Chord sheets

Music / worship

Ages 5–9 lessons

Children's gospel foundations

▼ ADD THIS SERIES ▼

NEW: Song-to-Scripture Youth Studies (Ages 13–18)

- Each pack = Cover + Leader Guide + Teaching Flow + Student Sheet + Truth Cards
 - Links to existing chord sheet + matching Word message
 - Same free / share freely license as current materials

SUGGESTED NEXT TITLES IN THE SERIES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● He Sees You Still | El Roi — God sees lonely teens |
| ● Knees First | Prayer before performance |
| ● Who's on the Throne | Idols of image & control |
| ● Hold It Light | Generosity vs grip |
| ● The House That Stands | Building faith that lasts |

Website placement idea

On /ministry-resources/, add a fourth section under the kids lessons: "Youth Song-to-Scripture Studies." Card layout with cover thumbnail, age badge, time badge, and Download PDF — same visual language as the chord sheet links.