

Testimony of Mercy Answer Key

Use this answer key to discuss the students' answers to the Testimony of Mercy activity in their Student Guides.

1. **As you read 1 Timothy 1:12–17, what stands out to you as Paul tells of his conversion?** *Paul repeats the phrase “but I obtained mercy” twice, pointing to the fact that it is only by God’s mercy that he was saved. He also relates his former state as an enemy of God and a blasphemer. In light of this, he breaks into a doxology in verse 17, offering praise to God for all He has done.*
2. **What is so important about the word “but” in the middle of 1 Corinthians 15:9–11?** *This conjunction points to the distinction between Paul’s sinfulness as a persecutor of God and His people and God’s grace. It is only by God’s grace that Saul is a new creation and now preaches the glories of the Savior he once hated.*
3. **How was Paul’s former life as a Jew different from his life as a Christian based on Galatians 1:10–17?** *Paul explains that before he was saved he was doing things to please men, but as a Christian he is seeking to please God. Before, he persecuted the church to the extreme, but now he preaches Christ to the Gentiles.*
4. **In all of these passages, how does Paul explain why he was called to be an apostle?** *Paul repeatedly points to God’s grace and mercy in calling him to be an apostle. There was nothing in Saul that was pleasing to God, but God was pleased to “reveal His Son in” Saul and instantly transform him from an enemy to a beloved son—from a blasphemer to a preacher and ambassador.*
5. **When you hear a testimony like Paul’s or a drug dealer or prostitute being saved by Jesus, do you think your testimony is less worthy of sharing? Explain your thinking.** *As you discuss this with the students, some may feel that their testimony of salvation is not worth sharing since it is somewhat bland compared to Paul’s or others’. This attitude is one that is promoted by our culture as people who were saved young and grew up in a Christian home are not asked to share their testimonies at evangelistic events and other opportunities. This exposes an attitude of not thinking that all people are sinful and enemies of God (Colossians 1:21) before they repent and turn to Christ. Regardless of what our life was like before we knew Christ as Lord and Savior, it is only by God’s grace that we recognize our sin and repent.*

When someone gives you an opportunity to share your testimony of salvation, don’t waste that opportunity to tell others about the mercy and grace of God in your life to call you to salvation. Don’t think that they will not be impressed with your conversion because you were not a vile and immoral person on the outside before you were saved. You don’t want them to be impressed with your change; you want them to be impressed with what your Savior has done for you and in you. You want them to know that you were an enemy of God and yet He adopted you, redeemed you, and has given you an eternal inheritance when you deserved only hell and judgment. That should be the goal of sharing our testimony. God has saved us because of His mercy.