

# Under Pressure | Family Worship Guide

Mark 3:7-21



**MAIN IDEA:** Jesus models perseverance in faithful ministry in the midst of distraction and opposition.

## **PREPARATION:**

Think of the last time you were stressed. How do you respond to the pressures of life?

## **EXPLANATION:**

Leadership, teamwork and fatigue run throughout Mark 3:7-21. They are always present when trying to handle the pressure that comes with faithful ministry. Jesus knew this, and we discover in this text how He dealt with the pressures. Whether it is opposition from the Pharisees (2:1-3:6), the press of the crowd (3:7-12), the failure of a former follower (3:19), or the rejection of family (3:20-21). Jesus provides a model for us to follow. He will accept the pressure all the way to the cross, where He will die as a ransom for sin.

The first example of pressure Jesus dealt with was pressure from those who wanted something from Him. The crowd sought after Jesus for their gain, not His message. Their natural tendency was to selfishly seek their own benefit in healing and the casting out of demons. They imposed on Him so extensively that they did not care about His need for solitude or food or rest. Their only thought was of what Jesus could do for them. As Jesus continues to confront and cast out demons, the demons themselves attempt to hinder Jesus' ministry by revealing His deity at the wrong time. Jesus will carry forward and complete His mission on God's terms -- on His terms -- not theirs.

The second example of pressure Jesus dealt with was pressure from those who wanted to be with Him. Jesus withdrew from the crowd to spend time with the apostles, the called, "those whom he desired". He separated them from the crowd so that He could spend time training them. And the apostles responded. They came to him, leaving behind work, money, and family in order to seek Him. Their motivation was to know Christ, and to do the work he gave them the authority to do. But even within this select group, one of the apostles would disappoint and betray Jesus. Judas was chosen by our omniscient Lord to be with Him. He was loved. Judas serves as a reminder that people will disappoint you.

The third example of pressure Jesus dealt with was pressure from those who misunderstood Him. Jesus' family tries to stop Him, by telling others He is out of his mind. They understand neither who He is or what He came to do.

## **CONVERSATION:**

- Can you think of a time when you were unable to focus on the task at hand because of a distraction?
- Think about your quiet time with the Lord. Is the focus of the time your needs or your desire to know Christ more fully?
- How do you make sure to follow Christ's example to find undistracted alone time with God?
- What keeps you from being fully focused on Christ?

## **APPLICATION:**

- We should follow Christ's example of perseverance to our calling, despite the pressures of the world. We must set aside distractions and spend time alone with Christ.

**SUPPLICATION:**

Father, just as Christ faced enormous pressures during His ministry, help us to deal with the pressures of life using His faithful example as a guide. Renew in us a passion to know you more fully and seek you more diligently for who you are and not what you can do for us.

**EXULTATION:****I Need Thee Every Hour**

1 I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine  
Can peace afford.

Refrain:

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee;  
Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to Thee.

2 I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
Stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their pow'r  
When Thou art nigh. [Refrain]

3 I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide,  
Or life is vain. [Refrain]

4 I need Thee ev'ry hour,  
Teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises  
In me fulfill. [Refrain]