

Voices of Resilience

Haitian Women and the Path to Empowerment

Objective:

Students will explore the stories of Haitian women in the CLM program, understand the concept of self-empowerment, and analyze how it creates systemic change in families and communities.

Materials Needed:

- Handouts or a slideshow with 2–3 real or composite stories of Haitian women in CLM (based on Fonkoze or similar sources)
- Whiteboard/chart paper
- Student journals

Day 1 - Lesson Plan (45 min)

1. Hook (5 min)

Ask:

“What does *empowerment* mean to you?”

Write answers on the board.

2. Mini-Lesson: CLM Program Overview (10 min)

Briefly introduce the CLM program:

- Run by Fonkoze in Haiti in partnership with Mercy Focus on Haiti
- Helps ultra-poor women gain financial independence and life stability
- Provides vocational training, home building, education, and confidence coaching

3. Story Circle: Haitian Women’s Voices (15 min)

Break students into small groups. Give each group a woman’s story to read (real or composite).

Ask them to identify:

- What challenges she faced
- What support she received
- What steps she took to empower herself
- The impact on her family/community

Each group shares a 2-minute summary.

4. Reflect & Connect (10 min)

Ask:

- What does *resilience* look like in these stories?
- How did empowerment ripple out beyond one woman?
Students write a short reflection in their journals connecting this to a time they saw or experienced personal or community empowerment.

5. Close (5 min)

Exit ticket:

Write one sentence about how the Mercy value of **standing with women** is reflected in the CLM story.

Dignity in Action Designing Empowerment Initiatives

Objective:

Students will analyze the impact of micro-enterprise and vocational training, then creatively propose their own empowerment initiative.

Materials Needed:

- Chart paper or poster supplies
- Markers
- Short video clip or infographic about the CLM program (optional)
- Handout with principles of effective empowerment programs (keep it simple)

Day 2 - Lesson Plan (45 min)

1. Opening Question (5 min)

“What do people need to move from surviving to thriving?”

Discuss briefly as a class.

2. Quick Recap & Real-World Examples (5 min)

Recap CLM: how women build businesses, send kids to school, and become community leaders.

(Optional: show a brief video or infographic)

3. Think-Pair-Share: Barriers & Solutions (10 min)

In pairs, students brainstorm:

- What challenges do marginalized women face in your community or globally?
- What kinds of support would help?
Share a few with the class.

4. Design an Empowerment Initiative (20 min)

In small groups, students create a poster or one-page pitch for a fictional micro-empowerment program (could be set in Haiti or another underserved context). Include:

- Target audience (who is being empowered?)
- What training or support is provided?
- How does it ripple to the family/community?
- Name/logo and slogan

5. Gallery Walk & Reflection (5 min)

Groups display their posters. Students walk around, view others, and leave sticky notes with questions or affirmations.

Exit Slip:

“What is one way you can support or advocate for women’s empowerment today?”