




Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead

Acts 9:36-43

You can help 5- and 6-year-olds become more comfortable praying by modeling simple, short prayers and by giving children opportunities to pray. After each prayer, remind children that God answers our prayers. Sometimes he says yes; other times, no; and sometimes he asks us to wait. However God chooses to answer, he knows what's best for us.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i> | Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i> | Power Shout Experience some of the powerful things they can do with their mouths. | Bible, candle, matches | |
| 3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i> | Theo's News Find out what a thermometer has to do with the Bible story. | CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, toy thermometer Teacher Pack: CD | Place the toy thermometer in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible. |
| | Bible Time Play a game and learn that God brought Tabitha back to life. | Bible Teacher Pack: "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)  | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point

God hears our prayers.

Key Verse

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank God for hearing their prayers.

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|--|--|--|---|
| 4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i> | Center 1: When Can We Pray? Talk about how they'd pray in different situations. | My Bible Playground, pencils | Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. |
| | Center 2: Tabitha Treats Use a snack to retell the Bible story. | 1 person-shaped cookie and 1 fruit leather per child, paper plates or napkins | |
| | Center 3: Prayer Poster Place prayer needs on a poster. | crayons or pencils, sticky notes Teacher Pack: "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) | |
| | Center 4: We Can Pray Sing a song, and take turns saying prayers to God. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i> | Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word. | My Bible Playground | |
| | "Super" Prayer Say a prayer when a ball is bounced to them. | Teacher Pack: bouncy ball | |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families. | | |

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Acts 9:36-43

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

It appears from the text that no one thought to send for Peter until after Tabitha had died. Peter was in Lydda, about nine miles away. It would have taken about five or six hours to bring him from there, so it was necessary for him to hurry. If he delayed, the people in Joppa would have to bury Tabitha's body.

When Peter entered the room, he sent away the widows and the mourners, just as Jesus had done when he raised Jairus' daughter in Mark 5. Peter wanted some time to be alone with the Lord. Peter knew what the Christians in Joppa wanted him to do, and he no doubt expressed that to God. But he undoubtedly wanted to find out what the Lord wanted to do. From Peter's actions, it is apparent that the Lord gave Peter the direction he needed. Peter then used the same wording that Jesus had used in raising Jairus' daughter, with the exception of one letter: "Tabitha arise," instead of "Talitha arise."

How did Tabitha hear Peter's command if she was dead? As Peter spoke, the Lord returned her to life. The Lord made Tabitha hear and arise. She was instantaneously and completely restored. The disease was gone, and any decay that had taken place since death was wiped away. Imagine the joyous scene when Peter presented Tabitha alive to the crowd!

The result of this miracle, as with other miracles the apostles performed, was that many believed in the Lord. Miracles testify to God's power and encourage people in their faith.

Thanks to Jesus, who offers life—not just beyond but through death. No amount of bleakness can fade the wonder of this miracle.

Think about Peter's previous goof-ups and how God ultimately used him as a key leader in the startup of the church. God goes beyond forgiveness; he restores. What do you feel ashamed of? Confess your shortcomings to him now, and experience complete healing. You can write your prayer here.

[illegible]



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack


CD: "We Welcome You
to Church Today"
(track 15)

Power Shout Supplies

Bible
candle
matches

1 GETTING STARTED


Welcoming Song

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "We Welcome You to Church Today" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." Tell the children to stand up and greet each other as they sing and march around the room. Encourage the children to shake hands with one another when they sing the words "We welcome you to church today."

 **We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!**
We welcome you to church today, hurrah, hurrah!
We welcome you to church today.
We're here to worship and to pray
As we sing together,
Learning about God's love.
(Repeat 2x.)

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Power Shout

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down.

Ask:

 **What is the most powerful thing you've ever seen?**

Say: **Those are some pretty powerful things. But did you know that you have a lot of power? In fact, your mouths are really powerful! Let me show you what I mean.** Bring out a small candle and light it.





If I dropped this candle on the carpet, the whole building might burn down. But you can put out this candle by blowing air at the flame with your mouth. Let kids all blow out the candle together. Then put the candle and extra matches away, out of children's reach.

Say: **We can also use our mouths to let out a powerful shout. On the count of three, yell "Praise you, Jesus" as loud as you can. One, two, three.** Give kids a chance to shout.

You can also make people feel good with the words that come out of your mouths—now that's powerful. Have children turn to three different kids and give a compliment to each person. For example, children could say, "You're a child of God" or "I like your new shoes."

You can also use your mouths to help people who are in trouble. Have one child stand up, close his or her eyes, and walk towards an obstacle like the wall. When the child nears the obstacle, have everyone shout "Stop!"

Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show children the words. **Our Key Verse from the Bible is found in James 5:16. It says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." This means that prayer is powerful.** Lead children in saying the adapted version of the Key Verse together: **Prayer is powerful.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Did you know that your mouths were so powerful?
- What are some other powerful things you can do with your mouths?

Say: **The most powerful thing you can do with your mouth is pray. God is more powerful than anyone or anything. When you pray, God listens to you and answers your prayers.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.



Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
toy thermometer
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the thermometer in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.





Bible Time Supplies

Bible

Teacher Pack

“Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you’ve dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I found something I think you’ll like! I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let’s look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the toy thermometer around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Have any of you ever had your temperature taken? Why? And how did you get better?

(Pause for the children to respond.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a thermometer in our Surprise Box?

Theo: In today’s Bible story, there’s a woman named Tabitha who was very sick. In fact, she was so sick that she died. But Peter knew that ► **GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.**

Teacher: Let’s see what happened to Tabitha.

Theo: Have a good time today, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let’s say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week’s use.

Bible Time

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Place the “Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) where children can see it. Have children form pairs. Open your Bible to Acts 9:36-43, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today’s Bible story tells us that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS. There was a woman named Tabitha who loved God and worked hard to help poor people. One day Tabitha became very sick. Her friends tried to help her feel better.**

Even though Tabitha’s friends may have tried to help her, Tabitha died. Tabitha’s friends were very sad and asked Peter to come and help. Peter knew that he couldn’t do anything on his own but that God could help Tabitha. So Peter got on his knees and prayed. Then Peter looked at Tabitha and said, “Tabitha, get up.” Guess what happened? God brought Tabitha back to life! Wow! Prayer is powerful. Show children the poster so they can see what happened because of Peter’s prayer.

Let’s play a fun game to remind us of the power of prayer. Choose one child to be Peter, one child to be the Germ, and let everyone else pretend to be Tabitha. This game is similar to Freeze Tag.

Say: **Everyone playing Tabitha should try to stay away from the Germ, but the Germ should not try to touch Peter. If the Germ touches you, you must freeze right away and kneel down. Then you can’t move until Peter comes to pray for you. Peter can unfreeze anyone who is playing Tabitha by kneeling next to that person and saying, “Tabitha, get up.”**





Answer any questions the children might have about the game. After kids play one round, have children switch roles. Play as many rounds as time allows.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be Tabitha? to be Peter? to be the Germ?
- How do you think Peter felt when Tabitha came back to life?
- How has God answered your prayers before?

Say: **No one could help Tabitha except God. When Peter prayed, God heard his prayer, and he brought Tabitha back to life. ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS, too. We can pray to God about anything at any time, and God will hear us.**

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4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

When Can We Pray?

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 8 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their pages.

Say: **The page I just gave you has different pictures of things that happen in our lives. Look at each picture and decide if it's a time a person can pray. For each picture, if you think a person can pray at that time, circle the picture.** Give children time to circle the pictures.

Go ahead and circle every picture on your paper because you can pray at any time, wherever you are, and you can pray about anything. ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.

Discuss each picture with the children. Ask kids what is happening in each picture and what a person in each situation might pray about.



Center 1: When Can We Pray? Supplies

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My Bible Playground
pencils

Center 1: When Can We Pray? Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson
8 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Tabitha Treats Supplies

1 person-shaped cookie
and 1 fruit leather
per child
paper plates or napkins

! ALLERGY ■ ALERT

Center 3: Prayer Poster Supplies

crayons or pencils
sticky notes

Teacher Pack

“Peter Raises Tabitha
From the Dead” poster
(from the Big Bible
Poster Pack)

CENTER 2:

Center 2: Tabitha Treats

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children wash their hands or clean them with wet wipes.

Give each child a person-shaped cookie and a piece of fruit leather. Let the children lay the cookies on their plates and cover them with fruit leather “blankets.” Have children retell the story of Tabitha and pretend the cookies are Tabitha in bed. When Peter prays for Tabitha, have them stand their cookies up to show that Tabitha came back to life.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who is someone who is sick or hurt that you can pray for?
- How do you feel when someone prays for you?

Say: **It's great to know that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and is always listening when we want to talk to him.**

CENTER 3:

Prayer Poster

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place the “Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) where children can easily reach it. Provide blank sticky notes and pencils or crayons as well.

Say: **It's good to remember the things that we pray for so we can thank God when he answers our prayers. Use the crayons or a pencil to write or draw a picture of your prayer on a sticky note. For example, if you pray to God for your grandma to feel better, you might draw a picture of your grandma sick in bed.** Give children time to write and draw. Then let each child place his or her prayer sticker on the poster of Peter and Tabitha. Encourage children to make a border around the poster with their prayer stickers.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What kinds of things can you ask God for?
- Do you think God hears our prayers? Why or why not?

Say: **God is happy when we ask him for help. And ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS. This poster can remind us to talk to God about our needs.**





CENTER 4:

We Can Pray

What You'll Do

Cue the CD to "We Can Pray" (track 16 on the CD), and have the children form a circle.

Say: **We're going to sing a song about praying. At the end of the song, we'll take turns saying a prayer to God. When I point to you, say a prayer aloud about anything you want to pray for. You can thank God for something, ask God for help, or just tell God how much you love him.**

Start the CD, and have children sing "We Can Pray" to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In." You will have to re-cue the song several times to allow each child the chance to pray.



**Oh, we can pray
To God all day.
Our God is never far away.
In Taiwan, Peru, or Norway,
God will hear just what you say.**

**Oh, we can pray
To God all day.
Our God is never far away.
There's no need for us to delay.
Who will pray right now, today?**

(Repeat.)

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.



Center 4: We Can Pray Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We Can Pray"
(track 16)

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground



“Super” Prayer Supplies

Teacher Pack
bouncy ball

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS**. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to trust God to listen to you.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Pray and thank God for always hearing your prayers.**
2. **Tell a friend or parent a time you knew God heard your prayer.**
3. **Practice listening to others this week. If God always hears us, we should hear others, too!**

Say: If you want to pray, circle choice number 1. If you want to talk to a friend or parent, circle choice number 2. If you want to practice listening, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“Super” Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■

Take out the bouncy ball (from the Teacher Pack) to use for this super prayer. Have children form a circle.

Say: ► **GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS**. We're going to have a special prayer time to help us remember that God hears our prayers the instant we pray them. I'm going to pray first. Right when I pray, I'm going to bounce this ball to someone else. God will hear my prayer even before the person gets the ball. When the ball comes to you, catch the ball, pray aloud a short prayer, and bounce the ball to someone who hasn't had it yet.

Let's all think about another person we can pray for. Maybe you know someone who is sick or doesn't know Jesus. You can pray for that person during our prayer game. Play the game, and make sure everyone gets a chance to pray. Then finish by praying: **God you are super, and I thank you for hearing the prayers that we have bounced off of you today. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

