



Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead

Acts 9:36-43

For preteens, relationships are everything. They push against their parents and often revise who's on their "best friends" list, wanting to know who they can count on. And sometimes it seems to preteens that God flunks the test. When they pray, they don't hear a voice piercing the silence. They don't usually see quick answers. How can they know for sure that God really cares? When preteens question God's love and involvement in their lives, view their questioning as an opportunity to help them forge a more mature faith—one that will last a lifetime.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Playing Parents (about 10 min.) Consider a request from the perspective of both a child and a parent.	Bible Buzz, pens	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
2 Bible Exploration	Peter Drama (about 30 min.) Examine the life of Peter, and then perform an instant drama about Peter raising Tabitha from the dead.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, CD player, pens, copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	Recruit an adult volunteer to play the role of Peter. Or, if a student plays Peter, disguise the actor with a fake beard and a robe to emphasize that he or she is playing a role so no one's feelings get hurt.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point

God answers when we pray.

Key Verse

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

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will understand the power of prayer and go to God with their everyday needs.





LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Option 1: Prayer Mapping <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Pray together over a “prayer map” of the church.	Bible Buzz, Bibles, marker Teacher Pack: “Church Blueprint” poster 	
	Option 2: Prayer Walk <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Agree with God in prayer for those in the church’s neighborhood.	Bible Buzz, Bibles	Ask parents to sign permission slips as they arrive with their kids, allowing preteens to leave the building.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead

Acts 9:36-43

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Peter Arrives to Find Tabitha Dead

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."

Miracles Establish the Apostles' Credibility

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.

The Jesus Connection

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.



Playing Parents Supplies

Bible Buzz
pens

Playing Parents Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.

1

GETTING STARTED

Playing Parents

What You'll Do

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, ask students to turn to the “Flip Flop” section of Bible Buzz. Then ask kids to form pairs and answer the following question.

Ask:

- **When you were 5, what was your favorite treat?**

Give partners 90 seconds to tell each other their favorite treats and to write down what their favorite treats were in the “Flip” section of Bible Buzz.

Say: **Now it's time for you to “flop.” Please raise your right hands and repeat after me: “I am now an honorary parent.”**

When you were 5 years old, you probably begged for the special treat you've identified. You loved eating it. And maybe your parents let you have the treat every once in a while.

As an honorary parent, you have the power to grant your child's request right now. You could say, “Sure, have the treat.”

But here's the situation: Your child has had an upset stomach for the past couple of days. You want the child to eat healthy food. Dinner is in half an hour. You have to do what's best for the child. What will you do? Will you answer the request with a “yes,” a “no,” or a “later”?

Write your answer in the “Flop” section of your Bible Buzz now.

Ask kids to form foursomes and share their “Flip Flop” responses. Then ask foursomes to discuss these questions.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did you answer the request? Why?**
- **How do you think your child would respond? Why?**
- **How does this compare to God hearing your prayers?**
- **How do you feel when you hear “yes”? “no”? “later”?**

After the discussion, say: **God is all-powerful. He could give us anything we ask for,**



and that would make us happy—for a while. But God sees the big picture of what he wants to accomplish in the world. He knows how giving us what we want would affect us and others. Does God answer our prayers? Absolutely—but not always the way we want—or when we want. Today we'll explore how ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Peter Drama

What You'll Do

Ask an adult volunteer to sit in a chair facing your group.

Say: [Name of volunteer], your job is to act along with what's about to happen. If you hear something nice about you, look thankful and proud. If someone says something mean about you, act sad. But don't say a word. Ready? Turning to the group, continue.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you to someone who has a great story—the Apostle Peter. Give Peter a round of applause! After the group applauds, continue.

I'd like to tell you more about this amazing man, but instead of me telling you, you can listen to a biographical clip on the CD. Two men who apparently knew Peter will tell you more about him.

Play "Talkin' About Peter" (track 17 on the CD).

At the end of the track, pause the CD.

Say: We can say at least one thing about Peter: He wasn't perfect. He made mistakes. He could be proud and impulsive. He was sort of like us. Yet God used Peter in some amazing ways. When Peter prayed, things happened.

It's time to continue our Peter drama.

Recruit volunteers to play these roles for the next drama: Peter, Tabitha, Simon, disciples, believers, two men on a mission, poor people, and widows. Cast everyone in your group.

Position Peter on one side of the "stage" and everyone else on the other side. Then play "Tabitha Rises" (track 18 on the CD), and ask kids to act out their parts as they hear the story develop.

After the track ends, turn off your CD player. Ask kids to form trios and discuss the following questions.



Peter Drama Supplies

Bibles
Bible Buzz
CD player
pens
copies of the lyrics (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack
CD: "Talkin' About Peter" (track 17), "Tabitha Rises" (track 18), "Earnest Prayer" (James 5:16) (track 19)

Peter Drama Easy Prep

Recruit an adult volunteer to play the role of Peter. Or, if a student plays Peter, disguise the actor with a fake beard and a robe to emphasize that he or she is playing a role so no one's feelings get hurt.



Ask:

- Peter obviously wasn't perfect, so why was he able to do this miracle?
- Where did the power to return life to Tabitha come from?
- Why do you think God answered "yes" to Peter's prayer?

Ask trios to report their insights to the group. Affirm all participation and answers, and remember to ask follow-up questions such as "Why do you think that?" and "Would you tell me more about that idea?"

Ask trios to turn to the "Prayer Power" section of Bible Buzz. Distribute pens and Bibles, and ask kids to spend 5 to 10 minutes thoughtfully answering the questions in the "Prayer Power" section of Bible Buzz.

Say: **Prayer is more than just reciting familiar words or aiming wish lists toward heaven. God wants a relationship with us. He wants us to open up to him and to listen when he speaks to us.**

Now I'd like you to complete the "Prayer Possibilities" section of your Bible Buzz. When you've finished, I'll ask you to share what you wrote in your trios, so keep that in mind as you write. You've got five minutes to complete the section and talk with your partners.

When kids finish, ask them to share within their trios what they wrote.

Ask:

- **What happens when we pray?**

Say: **When we pray, we enjoy a relationship with God. We tell God what we're thinking and feeling. And we are open to God shaping our hearts and minds to be more like him. But for prayer to work, we must pray. Let's listen to a song that tells the kind of results we get when we pray earnestly—that is, honestly and with sincerity.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "Earnest Prayer" (James 5:16) (track 19 on the CD) while kids read the lyrics quietly and listen to the song.

 **Confess your sins to each other
And pray for each other
So that you may be healed,
So that you may be healed.**

**The earnest prayer of a righteous person
Has great power and produces wonderful results.
(Repeat.)**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Wonderful results.

"Earnest Prayer" (James 5:16) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.





Say: This song says that earnest prayer produces great results. We're going to play the song again. This time let's sing the words as a commitment to God to make prayer an important part of our lives.

Play the song a second time.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How can the attitude expressed in this song help you pray?

Say: When we take prayer seriously, we'll want to pray to help others. ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY. How can we best pray for others?

3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Option 1: Prayer Mapping

What You'll Do

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, James 5:16, in Bible Buzz: "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."

Ask:

- How do you think our prayers can be powerful and effective?

Ask a volunteer to read aloud Ephesians 6:18. Display the "Church Blueprint" poster, and have kids gather around it. As you talk, use a marker to draw a rough floor plan of your church building on the poster. Include all the major sections where people gather on Sunday mornings.

Say: We're going to use a creative approach to pray for the people in this church right now. We'll form groups that will take turns praying for different groups of people in our church, using this church blueprint as a prayer guide. I'll lead the journey, directing us to place our hands on a different part of the church map. At each stop, I'll ask a group to lead us in a brief prayer for the people gathered in that section of the church. We'll simply pray as God's Word directs us to pray: for other Christians.

Form four or five groups, and then lead kids on a "virtual" prayer through the map. Pause at all the major sections—including the classrooms, the sanctuary, the doors of the church (to pray for visitors), the kitchen (to pray for the church's fellowship), and the nursery (to pray for the babies). Tailor the prayer to your own building and situation, but make sure that at every stop you have one of the groups lead a prayer for the people. It's okay if groups pray more than once.



Option 1: Prayer Mapping Supplies

Bible Buzz
Bibles
marker
Teacher Pack
"Church Blueprint"
poster



Option 2: Prayer Walk Supplies

Bible Buzz
Bibles

Option 2: Prayer Walk Easy Prep

Ask parents to sign permission slips as they arrive with their kids, allowing preteens to leave the building.

Option 2: Prayer Walk

What You'll Do

Have kids find and read the Key Verse, James 5:16, in Bible Buzz: “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Ask:

- **How do you think our prayers can be powerful and effective?**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 28:18-20.

Say: This is a clear command from Jesus: Go and make disciples. Share the gospel. We can help others become Christians as we encounter people in our daily lives. Let's pray that God's will is done in the neighborhood around our church building. Together we're going to take a prayer walk around the block.

We'll simply pause in front of each building to pray that the people who live and work there will come to know God through Jesus. Unless there's an opportunity to do so, we won't share our faith stories. We're simply going to agree with God in prayer.

Remind preteens to move quietly through the building as they follow you outside; you don't want to disturb other classes and groups. Stay together as you walk around the block, and stay off private property. Pray on the sidewalk. Consider asking kids to take turns offering simple prayers. They can pause, form a circle, and close their eyes. Or ask kids to take turns praying while slowly strolling past different buildings. How kids pray isn't as important as encouraging kids to participate.

4

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY.

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Each morning, get up 10 minutes earlier so you can pray, and thank God for his willingness to answer prayers.**
- **Offer to pray together with a friend or parent for his or her needs, not just your own.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz



- **Practice listening to others this week. If God is always listening, we should listen, too!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

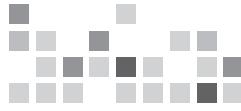
Say: ► **GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY.** Let's see how he answers our prayers as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about prayer. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

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

Ask kids to share "popcorn" prayers: one- or two-word prayers thanking God for being approachable in prayer.



Lyrics



Earnest Prayer (James 5:16)

Confess your sins to each other
And pray for each other
So that you may be healed,
So that you may be healed.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person
Has great power and produces wonderful results.

(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Wonderful results.

"Earnest Prayer" (James 5:16) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

