




Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead

Acts 9:36-43

Because they're still concrete thinkers, first- and second-graders can't yet comprehend God's spiritual nature. But you can help them begin to trust and follow a God they can't see by talking about and modeling your own faith. Sharing accounts of how God has answered prayers in your life can help kids see that God listens to their prayers, too.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Target Toss <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Toss paper "prayers" in a game.	Bible, crayons, paper, newsprint, marker, tape	
2 Bible Exploration	Peter's Prayer <i>(about 30 min.)</i> Draw facial expressions to depict the emotions felt by the people in the Bible passage, and see Tabitha rise up.	Bible, My Bible Fun, crayons, paper fasteners Teacher Pack: "Tabitha" punch-outs, "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Punch out the "Tabitha" punch-outs.

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 pray for themselves and others.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Tim's Prayers <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Listen to a boy's prayers and decide how they should be answered.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	My Turn to Pray <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Talk to partners about prayers.	My Bible Fun Teacher Pack: "Teach Us to Pray" poster 	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	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.



Target Toss Supplies

Bible
crayons
paper
newsprint
marker
tape

1 GETTING STARTED

Target Toss

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're going to be talking about prayer, so let's start class with a prayer.**

Pray: **Dear God, we're so glad that we all get to be together to learn about you today. Thank you for our class, and please help us to understand what the Bible teaches. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Now let's think about the different things we talk to God about when we pray.**

Share with the children two or three things that you might ask God for—a safe trip and help in making a decision, for example. Then encourage children to share some of the things they ask God for. As kids talk, set out crayons and paper. Ask the kids to draw on their papers some of the things they ask God for. As the kids work, draw a large target with three circles on a large piece of newsprint. In the center circle, write “yes”; in the middle circle, write “not right now”; in the outside circle, write “no.” At the top of the paper, write “God answers prayer.” Tape the target to a wall.

After a few minutes of drawing, have kids form two or three groups. Have the groups line up about 5 feet from the target. Explain that kids will wad up their prayer drawings and throw them at the target. Read what the three different rings of the target say, and ask the kids to pay attention to which rings their papers hit. Have the children at the front of each line throw their papers and then retrieve them, then have the next children throw, and so on. If children have more than one piece of paper, have them throw one piece of paper, go to the back of the line, then throw the other piece of paper when they get to the front of the line again.

After kids have thrown all their prayer drawings at the target, have them gather around you.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What happens when we pray?**
- **How was what happened with your prayers in our game like what happens with your prayers in real life? How was it different?**
- **When has God answered your prayers with a yes? a no? a not right now?**





Say: **Our prayers always reach God, and God has more than three answers to prayers. God will always hear them, and he carefully thinks about the best answer to each of our prayers. When we pray, our words don't just float away. ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY. That's why the Bible tells us that our prayers are powerful.**

Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show the page to the kids. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the Key Verse: **"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."** Explain that a righteous person loves God and does what God wants and that something that works well is effective. Then have kids repeat the Key Verse with you.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Peter's Prayer

What You'll Do

Show the "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster. Say: **Our Bible story today shows us just how powerful and effective our prayers are. Let's find out what amazing thing happened when Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, prayed.**

Distribute the My Bible Fun pages for Lesson 8, and set out crayons. Open your Bible to Acts 9:36-43 to show the Bible story passage to the kids. Explain that the Bible story is about a woman named Tabitha.

Say: **Today we're learning about what happens when we pray. At the beginning of the story, we meet a woman named Tabitha. The Bible says Tabitha was a disciple "who was always doing good and helping the poor."**

Point out the squares on the My Bible Fun pages.

Say: **In the first square, draw a face to show how people might have felt about Tabitha.** If children need help, ask them how they'd feel if Tabitha had helped them. Would they smile or frown, laugh or cry?

When kids have finished drawing, have a few volunteers explain the expressions they drew.

Say: **Then Tabitha became very, very sick, and she died. In the second square, draw a face to show how people might have felt then.**

Give kids a minute to draw, and ask volunteers to share their expressions. Then distribute small paper fasteners, and give kids each a two-piece Tabitha figure. Help each child poke a paper fastener through both Tabitha pieces where indicated and then through the black dot on the bed on the My Bible Fun page. Show children how to turn Tabitha so she's lying on the bed. Explain that after Tabitha died, her friends placed her body in a room.



Peter's Prayer Supplies

- Bible
- My Bible Fun
- crayons
- paper fasteners
- Teacher Pack**
- "Tabitha" punch-outs
- "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

Peter's Prayer Easy Prep

- Tear out the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
- Punch out the "Tabitha" punch-outs.





Say: **But that's not the end of the Bible story. Some of Tabitha's friends heard that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, was in a nearby town. They walked all the way to get Peter, and Peter walked all the way back with them. When he got there, Peter sent everyone out of Tabitha's room. He got down on his knees, and he prayed.** Point out the drawing of Peter on the My Bible Fun page.

Ask:

- **Why do you think Peter prayed?**
- **How do you think Peter felt as he prayed?**

Have kids draw a face in the third square of their My Bible Fun pages, showing how they think Peter felt. Ask volunteers to share what they drew.

Ask:

- **What do you think happened when Peter prayed?**

Say: **We don't know exactly what Peter said, but we do know that God answers our prayers. So do you know what happened because of Peter's prayer? The Bible says Peter turned to Tabitha and told her to get up. Amazingly, Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up! She was alive!**

Have kids turn their Tabitha figures to show Tabitha sitting, then standing up. Then ask kids how they think the people felt when they saw that Tabitha was alive again. Have the kids draw a face in the fourth square of their My Bible Fun pages, showing how the people must have felt. Ask for volunteers to share their drawings.

Say: **The Bible says one more thing about Peter's prayer: Many people in the city heard what happened to Tabitha, and they believed in Jesus because of it. In the fifth square, draw a face showing how you think Jesus felt because so many people believed in him.**

After kids have drawn, have a few volunteers explain the expressions they drew.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Look at the expressions you drew. What do they tell you about what happens when we pray?**
- **How was Tabitha's life changed by God's answer to Peter's prayer?**
- **How were Tabitha's friends changed by God's answer to Peter's prayer?**
- **Look at the Tabitha figure on your My Bible Fun page. How was Peter's prayer powerful and effective, just as our Key Verse says?**

Say: **The expressions you drew and your Tabitha pictures show you what happened when Peter prayed. God answered Peter's prayer, and Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up. "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY.**





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Tim's Prayers

What You'll Do

Have kids gather around the CD player.

Say: **The Bible says in James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." To get a better idea of what this means in your life, let's follow a boy named Tim through his day. On the CD, you'll hear his prayers. Then you'll think about the Key Verse and decide how you think Tim's prayers should be answered.**

Play the "Tim's First Prayer" segment (track 14 on the CD). When the bell rings, stop the CD and ask the group to repeat the Key Verse: **"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).**

Ask:

- **Based on the Key Verse, do you think we always get what we want when we pray? Explain.**
- **Do you think Tim understands the meaning of the Key Verse? Explain.**
- **How do you think Tim's prayer should be answered—yes or no? Why?**

Have the kids explain their opinions, and then have the class vote for the answer to be "yes" or "no." If the class votes "yes," play the "First Answer: Yes" segment (track 15 on the CD). If the class votes "no," play the "First Answer: No" segment (track 16 on the CD).

When you hear the bell, play the "Tim's Second Prayer" segment (track 17 on the CD).

When the bell rings, stop the CD and ask the group to repeat the Key Verse: **"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).**

Ask:

- **Based on the Key Verse, what does righteousness—or loving God and doing what God wants—have to do with prayer?**
- **What would you like to tell Tim about prayer?**
- **How do you think Tim's prayer should be answered—yes or no? Why?**

Again, have kids explain their answers and vote. If kids vote "yes," play the "Second Answer: Yes" segment (track 18 on the CD). If kids vote "no," play the "Second Answer: No" segment (track 19 on the CD).

When you hear the bell, play the "Tim's Third Prayer" segment (track 20 on the CD).

When the bell rings, stop the CD and ask the group to repeat the Key Verse: **"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).**



Tim's Prayers Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Tim's Prayers
and Answers" (tracks
14-22)





Ask:

- **What was different about this prayer? about Tim's attitude?**
- **How would you answer Tim's prayer—yes or no? Why?**

Again, have kids explain their answers and vote. If kids vote “yes,” play the “Third Answer: Yes” segment (track 21 on the CD). If kids vote “no,” play the “Third Answer: No” segment (track 22 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **According to the Key Verse, what happens when we pray?**
- **If God says “no” or “not right now” when we ask for something in prayer, does that mean we shouldn't pray at all, that we should stop praying? Explain.**

Say: **God hears our prayers, but sometimes we ask for things that aren't the best for us. Sometimes we ask for things that aren't the best for others. There are many reasons God answers our prayers the way he does. God always knows what's best for us. But we should keep praying because James 5:16 tells us “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”**

My Turn to Pray

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Now it's your turn to pray and to think of ways to remember every day that your prayers are powerful and effective.** Show the “Teach Us to Pray” poster and point out some of the ways kids can pray.

Have kids form pairs. Have kids look at the expressions they drew on their My Bible Fun pages during the Bible story activity. Have kids talk with their partners about times they've felt as the expressions depict. Then have kids talk about what they can say to God the next time they feel that way. After kids have had a few minutes to talk, ask several volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What happens when we pray?**

Say: ► **GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY. We can help ourselves and others simply by praying for them because “the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”**

My Turn to Pray Supplies

My Bible Fun
Teacher Pack
“Teach Us to Pray”
poster



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Pray and thank God for answering when you pray.**
- **Read your Bible with a parent, and ask for God's direction in your life.**
- **Ask a friend if you can pray for him or her. Then tell your friend that God answers when we pray!**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell 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: **Let's remember this week that ► GOD ANSWERS WHEN WE PRAY by following through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God answers when we pray. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

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

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun



