



Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead Acts 9:36-43

Young preschoolers have very active imaginations and find it easy to talk to unseen people or things. Prayer is a natural way for them to express themselves to God. Teach the children that God is truly present and listening to their every need and concern. Encourage them to look for answers to prayers and to see those answers as God's power at work. Reassure children that God doesn't always answer right away or the way we want him to, but God always loves them and hears their prayers.



► 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
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i>	Prayer Is Powerful Use motion and dynamics to understand the power of prayer.		
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how God answered Theo's prayer.	CD player, Theo puppet, small book, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape a small book to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Tabitha Is Alive! Act and dance as if they're Tabitha's friends during the Bible story.	Bible, CD player, 1 crepe paper streamer per child, tape Teacher Pack: CD, "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	



Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Praying Hands Trace their hands to join with another hand in prayer.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Tabitha Snacks Cut gelatin into the shape of a girl like Tabitha.</p>	gelatin, two 8x10 pans, girl-shaped cookie cutter, spatula, paper plates	Prepare two 8x10 pans of finger gelatin.
	<p>Center 3: Tabitha and Peter Drama Act out the Bible story.</p>	towel, Bible-time clothes	
	<p>Center 4: Tabitha Clothes Decorate paper vests to wear.</p>	1 paper grocery sack per child, scissors, crayons	Cut one paper grocery sack per child as indicated in the diagram (page 94) to form "vests" children can decorate and wear.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer Praise God with prayer.</p>	1 crepe paper streamer per child	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Jesus Welcomes Everyone" (track 3), "God Is Listening" (track 6)

whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Jesus Welcomes Everyone" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



Jesus welcomes, Jesus welcomes (*Point up.*)

Everyone, everyone. (*Make gathering motion.*)

He is here among us. (*Nod and point to ground.*)

He is here among us. (*Nod and point to ground.*)

Come and learn, come and learn. (*Make gathering motion.*)

(*Repeat 2x.*)

Say: **You're all welcome today. Today we'll learn that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS. Let's sing a song about how God listens to us.**

Lead children in singing "God Is Listening" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



God is listening when we talk to him, (*Put hand to ear.*)

Talk to him, talk to him. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

God is listening when we talk to him. (*Put hand to ear.*)

God hears our prayers. (*Nod head.*)

He listens when I pray; he listens when you pray. (*Point to self, then to others.*)

God is listening when we talk to him. (*Put hand to ear.*)

God hears our prayers. (*Nod head.*)

(*Repeat 2x.*)





2 KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY



Prayer Is Powerful

What You'll Do

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to James 5:16, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is James 5:16. This verse says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." That means that prayer is powerful. Let's say this together.** Lead children in repeating this simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **Prayer is powerful.**

Say: **When we say the word prayer, I want you to put your hands together as if you are going to pray.**

Ask:

- Are arm muscles a sign of power?
- Can you show me your arm muscles to show how powerful you are?

Say: **This verse uses the word power. When we say power, I want you to show your arm muscles to show how powerful prayer is. Let's say, "Prayer is powerful."** As you say this, lead the children in making praying hands and then flexing their arm muscles.

Have the children begin saying the Key Verse quietly, crouched low to the floor. Have the children follow you as you repeat the verse with the motions, each time growing taller and saying the verse louder. Once you're standing up, reverse the process until children are seated on the floor. Remind the children that God hears our prayers when we shout and when we whisper.

Talk With Kids

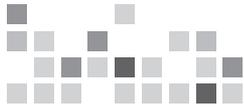
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who answers our prayers?

Say: **Prayer is powerful and works when we pray for things that God wants. God listens and cares about the things that are important to us. ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and answers because he loves us so much. I'm thankful that prayer is powerful.**





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
small book
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape a small book to
Theo's paw.

Bible Time: Tabitha Is Alive! Supplies

Bible
CD player
1 crepe paper streamer
per child
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "God Is Listening"
(track 6)

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

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! I'm happy to see you today. You look happy, too!

Theo: I am happy! I found a book that I'd lost, and that makes me feel very happy! When I lost the book, I prayed and asked God to help me find the book. And then I remembered that the book was under the couch!

Teacher: Theo, your story reminds me of the Key Verse we just learned. Friends, can you tell Theo the Key Verse for today?

(Allow children to say the Key Verse: Prayer is powerful.)

Teacher: You know that prayer works, don't you, Theo?

Theo: It does! Now I'm going to go read my book!

Teacher: Goodbye, Theo.

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Theo felt when God answered his prayer?

Say: **Theo prayed to God, and God heard his prayer. Let's hear about another prayer God heard and answered.**

Bible Time: Tabitha Is Alive!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Tape the "Peter Raises Tabitha From the Dead" poster to a wall where children can easily see it. Cue the CD to "God Is Listening" (track 6). Have 1-foot crepe paper streamers and tape nearby.

Open your Bible to Acts 9:36-43, and show the children the words.





Say: Today we're going to learn that ► **GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.** Our Bible story is about Peter, one of Jesus' friends.

Our Bible story talks about a woman named Tabitha. Can everyone say her name with me? Have the children repeat "Tabitha." Tabitha was a kind and helpful lady who everyone liked. She sewed for people who needed clothes. But then Tabitha died. Her friends were very, very sad. Let's pretend to cry because we miss Tabitha. Have the children pretend to cry.

Tabitha's friends asked Peter to come. Peter came and went into the room where Tabitha's body was lying, and he sent all the sad people outside. Then Peter knelt and prayed for Tabitha. Let's kneel as Peter did when he prayed to God. Have the children kneel and fold their hands to pray.

Ask:

- Who hears our prayers?
- How would you pray and tell God about Tabitha?

Say: **When we pray, ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.** Even though we can't see God, we know that God is listening.

Let's join Peter in praying for Tabitha. Say with me, "Dear God, please help Tabitha."

Lead the children in repeating the prayer. Then lead children in saying, "In Jesus' name, amen." Then direct children to look at the poster.

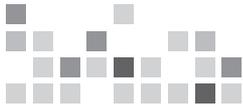
Say: **When Peter finished praying, he told Tabitha to get up. Guess what! Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up! Tabitha was alive! Tabitha's friends were so happy! We pray to God because God can help us with anything. Nothing is too hard for God. ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and can do anything!**

Distribute the crepe paper streamers. Tell the children that they're going to sing, dance, and wave their streamers to show how happy they are that God answered Peter's prayer and helped Tabitha.

Sing "God Is Listening" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Encourage the children to dance and wave their streamers as they sing.

 **God is listening when we talk to him,
Talk to him, talk to him.
God is listening when we talk to him.
God hears our prayers.
He listens when I pray; he listens when you pray.
God is listening when we talk to him.
God hears our prayers.
(Repeat 2x.)**





When you've finished singing, have each child tape his or her streamer to the poster to make it a picture of celebration. Have each child say, "God hears my prayers," while taping a streamer onto the poster.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Peter felt when God answered his prayer?
- When has God answered your prayers?
- How can we thank God for hearing our prayers?

Say: **God heard Peter's prayer and made Tabitha alive again. ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS, too!**

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:

Praying Hands

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hand out the student pages, and help each child place his or her hand on top of the photograph on the page. Help children trace the outline of their hands. Say: **We put our hands together when we pray to ask God to please hear our prayers. We know that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS and answers them.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do we know that God heard Peter's prayer?
- When we are sad about something, what can we remember to do?

Say: **God cares about us and wants us to talk with him. We can put our hands together, bow our heads, and pray. When we pray, we know that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS.**

Center 1: Praying Hands Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

Center 1: Praying Hands Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8
pages from each My
Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.





CENTER 2:

Tabitha Snacks

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands (or use wet wipes). Have them gather around the pans of gelatin and, one at a time, press the girl-shaped cookie cutter into the gelatin. Help each child lift a "Tabitha" from the pan and place it on a small paper plate. Each time a child lifts up a "Tabitha," remind the child that God raised Tabitha.

Remind children that Tabitha had died and was lying down. Say: **After Peter prayed, Tabitha came alive and sat up.** Have children hold their Tabitha characters in a sitting-up position.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Tabitha's friends felt when God made Tabitha alive again?

Say: **Tabitha's friends were so happy that she was alive. They knew that prayer is powerful. Let's thank God for hearing our prayers and for providing our snack.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Tabitha and Peter Drama

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the children together in one area of the room. Furnish this dramatic play area with a towel (for Tabitha's bed) and Bible-time clothes for children to wear. Let kids choose one child to act as Tabitha and one child to act as Peter, and have the other children act as the friends. Encourage kids to act out what they remember about the Bible story.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Peter pray about?
- What can we pray to God about?
- How do you feel when God answers your prayers?

Say: **Peter asked God to help Tabitha. We can pray to God about anything! We pray to God because we also know that prayer is powerful.**



Center 2: Tabitha Snacks Supplies

- gelatin
- two 8x10 pans
- girl-shaped cookie cutter
- spatula
- paper plates

! ALLERGY ALERT

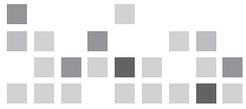
Center 2: Tabitha Snacks Easy Prep

Prepare two 8x10 pans of finger gelatin.

Center 3: Tabitha and Peter Drama Supplies

- towel
- Bible-time clothes



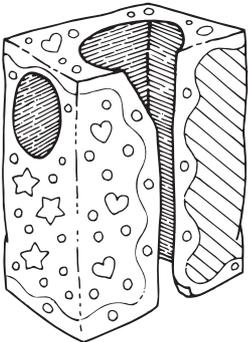


Center 4: Tabitha Clothes Supplies

1 paper grocery sack
per child
scissors
crayons

Center 4: Tabitha Clothes Easy Prep

Cut one paper grocery
sack per child as
indicated in the diagram
to form “vests” children
can decorate and wear.



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs
crayons

CENTER 4:

Tabitha Clothes

What You'll Do

Provide crayons for children to decorate their vests. While children work, remind them that Tabitha was known for making clothing and helping others.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How might Tabitha's job of making clothes have helped others?
- What are some other jobs that help people?

Say: **Tabitha was good at sewing clothes. She showed her love for God by helping others. Tabitha's friends were sad when she died, but God heard Peter's prayer and raised her from the dead! Prayer is powerful!**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned 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 for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember that God hears your prayers this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- Tell a friend or parent about a time you knew God heard your prayer.
- Practice listening to others this week. If God always hears us, we should hear others, too!

Say: **If you want to tell about a time God heard you, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to practice listening to others, circle the choice with two dots. Check**





that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs 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!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Distribute crepe paper streamers to the children. Have the children take turns waving the streamers in the air and praying, "Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers."

Pray: **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during 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.



Action Prayer Supplies

1 crepe paper streamer
per child



