

June 30, 2024

Bible Passage: Acts 9:36–42
(Peter and Tabitha)

The Lord Who Heals

Remember Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

LESSON OVERVIEW

CONNECT//
10 minutes



That's Amazing!

SUPPLIES

- None

GATHER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Game: Draw the Verse

SUPPLIES

- Markers or colored pencils
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Tape

Storytelling

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate

Questions*

- Bibles
- Blankets (2)
- Pillow
- Fabric (small or medium-sized piece)

Discussion Questions

RESPOND//
15 minutes



Praying for Healing

SUPPLIES

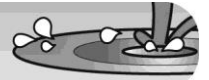
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase markers

(Optional) Memory

SUPPLIES

- Memory cards*
- Scissors

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 5*
- Bible
- Fabric (1 small piece per child approx. 5" x 8", plain colors)
- Fabric markers

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 4
2018–19 Scope and Sequence
TruStory How It Works
Small Group Enhancement**

At Home Weekly: Lesson 4

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

Inspire *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

Two weeks from now is the second anniversary of the death of my sister-in-law. She and my brother had been married only a year when they discovered her leukemia. What they thought would be an easy treatment turned into grueling chemo sessions that failed to stop her cancer. She lasted only seven months after her diagnosis—the cancer was too strong and would not quit destroying her body.

I was in the room as my sister-in-law was passing away. It was a raw and awful time that I will never forget. As she struggled to let go, my mom and I sat and prayed with her. We spoke of the healing God brought her through the death of Jesus for her sins. We spoke of the peace He is able to offer when all around us is broken. We cried over the truth that God is victorious, but death has not yet quite lost its sting.

The Lord did not physically heal my sister-in-law. We grieved at her funeral and struggled through many dark days. But although God didn't heal her body, He healed her soul. She had accepted Christ and knew of the power of His resurrection. The sin that affects us all was wiped clean from her life by the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord who heals brought new life to my sister-in-law, and one day we will see her again and rejoice with her. Together we will worship the Healer in glory.

Denise Snyder
Crossroads Church

Equip *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

Peter plays a large role in the first half of Acts before Paul takes over the narrative. The first part of Acts 9 tells of Saul's (Paul's) conversion, and here we continue to see how the message of Jesus starts to spread to a wider region.

Peter goes to Lydda, northwest of Jerusalem, where he heals a man in Jesus' name, which causes many to believe. Meanwhile, Tabitha, a woman who helped the poor, becomes ill in Joppa. Joppa is a seaport on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Because it was closer to Jerusalem than Caesarea, it became a principal port for Israel.

Peter is called to Joppa when Tabitha dies, showing how the message of Jesus continues to move out from Jerusalem. Peter raises Tabitha from the dead in a way very similar to Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter in Mark 5. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter, He told the girl to rise: "Talitha koum!" (Mark 5:41). Here in Joppa, Peter raises Tabitha with "Tabitha, koum." The parallels here are not insignificant. Jesus passed on the powers He possessed to His followers through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

This miracle becomes known all over Joppa, and many start believing in Jesus. Because Joppa is a seaport, it's likely that the message of Jesus starts going out to sea and continues to spread the good news to the ends of the earth.

Support *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Throughout the Bible, God's prophets heal others in order to show His power. The ministry of Jesus continues this phenomenon, and then, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' followers begin healing in His name. These very real physical healings that take place validate the power of Jesus. Have you ever known someone whom Jesus healed physically?

When these healings take place, God does much more than just heal one person. Those who hear of the miracle begin to believe, and God heals them spiritually. God changes hearts and transforms people's lives as they understand

that Jesus is the One who came to save. When were you spiritually healed by the Father? The children in your group come from all types of situations. Some face physical illnesses in their bodies or in their family members' bodies. Others are hurt emotionally or spiritually. The beautiful thing is that our Lord heals it all. He is the One who can bind up the brokenhearted as well as heal our physical wounds.

As you prepare to interact with your children this week, pray for them as specifically as possible. Pray for areas in their lives where you know they need healing and ask God to use you as His instrument in whatever way possible. Then, as you go through your time with the kids, be sensitive to those who may be broken and may need extra attention. Encourage them with the truth that our God heals and makes all things new.

CONNECT//10 minutes



Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.

That's Amazing!

In this CONNECT time, the kids will take turns telling the group about amazing things they've seen.

SUPPLIES

- None

RELATE

CONNECT QUESTION: Welcome and greet children. Open your time by asking this question: **What's the most amazing thing that's ever happened to you?**

We each have stories of amazing things we've heard about or even seen with our own eyes. Today invite your first and second graders to share some of those stories as they play a game of That's Amazing! To play, have children take turns sharing a personal story of the most amazing thing they've ever seen. It could be something they've seen in person, in school, on TV, or in a movie. Once each child shares his story, everyone else should reply in unison, "That's amazing!" Give each person the opportunity to share.

Developmentally Speaking

Children in first and second grade appreciate agreed-upon rules for games and discussions. Be sure to explain that the children get to have a part in this activity as they respond with "That's amazing!" after each child's turn. This activity will also help them grow in the area of listening carefully to others and knowing the appropriate time to respond.

GATHER//30 minutes



Children experience and learn more about God through prayer, storytelling from The Big God Story, an investigation into God's Word, and creative ways to memorize Scripture.

Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Game: Draw the Verse

SUPPLIES

- Markers or colored pencils
- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Tape

RELATE

Assign one word of the Remember Verse to each child. If you have a small group, assign two words to several of the

children. Invite the kids to draw a picture or symbol to represent their word in the Remember Verse. Then put the pictures in order and tape them to a wall in your room. Have the children repeat the Remember Verse using the pictures they made. Say the verse together until the children know it well.

Storytelling

Bible Passage: Acts 9:36–42

Storytelling Technique: Objects

The Lord Who Heals

SUPPLIES

- Optional: Investigate Questions (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Blankets (2)
- Pillow
- Fabric (small or medium-sized piece)

SET UP

Make a bed on the floor out of the blankets and pillow. Fold the top blanket halfway down the “bed.”

RELATE

After Jesus went up to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with all who choose to trust and obey Him. Before He left, Jesus gave His disciples a very important job. What was it? Pause for responses. Yes—Jesus told them to go and tell the world that He is the way to be with God forever. Many people heard the good news of Jesus and believed in Him. Some even sacrificed their lives to make sure the people of the world heard the truth about Jesus. Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts today. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

The 12 apostles trusted Jesus as they continued to obey His words. God used the boldness of one of the disciples, Peter, to share the good news of Jesus with people far and wide. How did God use Peter to care for others and spread the good news? Encourage answers. Good thoughts. One way God showed that the disciples’ message was true was by healing sick or injured people. God used the disciples to show that He loves people and that He is the Lord who heals. Peter preached to a big crowd of people about how Jesus is the Messiah (Acts 2), and he healed a crippled beggar in Jesus’ name (Acts 3). He kept preaching about Jesus, no matter what, to anyone who would listen. He was even put in jail, but that didn’t stop him from telling people the good news (Acts 3–4).

Invite children to turn to Acts 9:36–37 and follow along as you read. Invite kids to find the words “Joppa” and “Tabitha.” **In the city of Joppa lived a woman named Tabitha who had become very sick. Walk toward bed. The people with Tabitha felt very sad. Tabitha loved Jesus and showed this love to others by serving the poor. She also made clothes for people who didn’t have any. Hold up fabric. Tabitha became so sick that she couldn’t care for others. Then, one day, she died. Her friends washed her body and placed her in a bed so that they could get ready for the funeral. Fold blankets up toward pillow; move away from bed.**

Read Acts 9:38–39 as kids follow along. **Tabitha’s friends knew Peter was in a nearby town, so they sent two men to ask him to come to Joppa. When Peter arrived, Tabitha’s friends brought him up to the room where they had put Tabitha’s body. They showed Peter some of the clothing Tabitha had made for them. Hold up fabric again.**

Read Acts 9:40–41. **Peter knew the Lord who heals, so he asked everyone in the room to leave, and then he got down on his knees by Tabitha’s bed and began to pray. Kneel by bed. He turned toward Tabitha’s body, and then he said, “Tabitha, get up” (Acts 9:40). Suddenly, Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up in bed! Fold blankets back from pillow. God had raised Tabitha from the dead! Peter took Tabitha’s hand and helped her get up. He called for her friends and showed them what God had done. The Lord heals! Tabitha was alive!**

Read Acts 9:42 as kids follow along. **This was the most amazing miracle anyone in Joppa had ever seen. People all over the town began talking about what God had done. Many people believed in Jesus because of this amazing miracle. God used Peter and Tabitha to show His mighty power and to help people believe in Him.**

In this part of The Big God Story, God showed that He is the Lord who heals. Through Peter, God did a great miracle that brought Tabitha back to life and helped more people know about Jesus. There is no sickness too great for God to heal! He has power over everything, and He is able to restore health and make people new.

Share a personal story of how you or someone you know experienced the Lord who heals.

Discussion Questions

- **What did Tabitha do for the people in Joppa?** Acts 9:36, 39

- **What did the people do for Tabitha when she died?** Acts 9:37–38
- **What did Peter do when he arrived?** Acts 9:39–40 **Why do you think that was important?**
- **What happened in Joppa after Tabitha came back to life?** Acts 9:42
- **How has God shown you that He is the Lord who heals?**

RESPOND//15 minutes



Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.

Praying for Healing

Children will have the opportunity to pray for individuals who need God's healing.

SUPPLIES

- Whiteboard
- Dry erase markers

SET UP

Write "The Lord Who Heals" in the center of the whiteboard.

RELATE

God is the Lord who heals! He holds the power to heal, and we can trust Him to care for us and those we love. God showed that He heals through the disciples. God shows other people who He is through us. Isn't that amazing? The Holy Spirit lives inside us like He lived inside the apostles, so we also have the power to pray for the sick! Who do you know who needs healing? Invite responses. As the children share, invite them to come up to the board and write each person's name.

After your children finish sharing, spend a few moments praying for the people on the board. Consider inviting the children to pray one- or two-sentence prayers out loud. Then spend some time thanking God for caring for us and our needs.

(Optional) Memory

In this game of Memory, kids will notice the images on the cards in order to get a match.

SUPPLIES

- Memory cards (see Resources)
- Scissors

PREPARE AHEAD

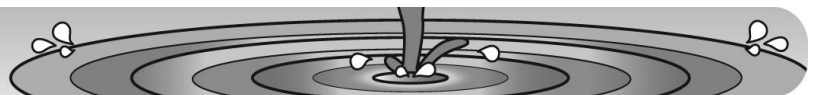
Print two copies of the Memory cards for every three or four kids—making one set of cards for every three or four kids. Cut the cards apart. Shuffle and stack each set of cards.

RELATE

Part of showing others the Lord who heals is noticing the needs around you. Out of noticing those needs, we can reach out to others and pray for them or care for them, like Tabitha and Peter did.

Today lead your first and second graders in a game of Memory during which they'll notice the images on the cards in order to get a match. Have the children play in groups of three or four. Give each group a set of Memory cards, and have the kids place the cards facedown on the floor or table in rows and columns. Then invite each child to try to find a match. The first child will flip over one card. Then he will flip over a second card to try to find the match. If he finds a match, he gets to take the matching cards from the playing space. If he doesn't find a match, he must turn the cards facedown again, and the next child takes a turn. The children will play until all the matches have been found. The child with the most matches wins. If you have time, consider holding a final round during which the winners play each other.

BLESS//5 minutes



Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES

- Remember Verse cards (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 5 (see Resources)
- Bible
- Fabric (1 small piece per child approx. 5" x 8", plain colors)
- Fabric markers

RELATE

Invite your children to sit together in a circle. Give each child a piece of fabric. Encourage the children to cup their hands in front of them and hold the fabric in their hands as you read the blessing from Jeremiah 30:17.

But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds.

May God care for your body, heart, and mind in every way. May He show Himself as the Lord who heals to you and those around you.

Then pass out the fabric markers for the children to write their own words or phrases of praise to God on their fabric. For example, they might write "Healer," "Loving," or "Sees Me." Then encourage the children to hand their piece of fabric to the child next to them as they bless that person by saying, "May God heal you in every way." Encourage the kids to take their pieces of fabric home to remind them to look for people God desires to heal.

Send home Remember Verse cards and the At Home Weekly with your kids.