

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE

WHAT'S
NEXT?

BIG IDEA

We can pray
for others.

BIBLE

Peter Prays for Tabitha:
Acts 9:36–43; James 5:13–16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Mazes may seem like simple puzzles, but they are designed to trick us into bumping into walls as we search for the exit. This week, we'll learn about how Peter prayed for a woman named Tabitha to come back to life. When we're puzzled about where to go or what to do next, Peter's story reminds us **we can pray for others.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back to another puzzle-solving adventure! Shall we begin? Let's go! Last time, we discovered that Saul used to be an enemy of people who followed Jesus, but Saul would come to follow Jesus himself. That means we can follow Jesus, too. So what's next? For that, we'll dive into the story of Peter, another follower of Jesus, who shows us what else we can do.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Find The Keys

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need envelopes, slips of paper, a bin, and an assortment of key locks and combination locks. Put all of the locks in a bin at the front of the room. Write the combinations on slips of paper. Tuck a combination or a key into an envelope and hide them around your space (taped under chairs and tables, inside of books, or in plain sight). Invite a few kids to each find a key or combination and unlock a lock from the bin to win! Collect all the keys and combinations, hide them in new places, and invite a new round of kids to try.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Place all the locks and keys in a bin and color-code them using dot stickers (or pieces of masking tape with colored marker). Have kids try opening each type of lock with the matching key.*
- **What puzzling challenge do you think awaits us today?** Riddle me this:
 - To open a door, you can knock,
 - Or use this item to unlock.
 - Or sometimes it's numbers you need,
 - Three or four in the right order, please.
- It looks like we're doing something with keys and combinations, and in today's Bible story, we'll discover a *key* part of following Jesus! When we don't have the right *combination* to solve a problem we have, we can always ask God!

ACTIVITY | Marble Maze Makers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need [wax craft sticks](#), marbles, and paper plates for kids to make [marble mazes](#) in small groups or individually. Have them attach the wax sticks onto the paper plates to create maze paths wide enough for the marble to travel from the edge to the middle of the plate. After they've tried their own mazes, they can try other people's mazes, too.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Make a few different sensory gel mazes like [this](#) for kids to interact with.
- Let's talk about prayer, which is talking to God. Sometimes, it might feel like our prayers take forever to get answered, like a marble traveling through a complicated maze.
- But we can be sure God hears us right away, even when the answers take a while or might not be what we expected. In today's Bible story, we will find out how Peter prayed to God when he was faced with an impossible situation.

POLL | A Maze-ish Problem

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids indicate their answers to each question by moving to opposite sides of the room, then discuss with each other why they chose as they did.
- **Would you rather solve one big maze that takes you a whole day or do twenty small mazes in the same amount of time? Why?**
- Mazes can be fun little brain exercises, or they can be frustrating puzzles that make you want to give up. Prayer can feel a little like a maze sometimes. Some days, talking to God makes you feel so connected to God, and on other days, you might wonder if God even hears you.
- Today's Bible story will remind us that we should never give up on talking to God, even when it seems like nothing can be done about our problems.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Acts 9:36–43 (Peter Prays for Tabitha)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Like in Week 1, prepare a mystery box with a large question mark drawn or posted on it. Keep a Bible inside the box until it is time to read from it.
- **Now that we've had some fun together, isn't there a question you want to ask me?** That's right—what's next? It's time for another "puzzling" true story straight from the Bible.
- In today's Bible story, we will meet a woman named Tabitha, who also went by the name Dorcas. The people in her community loved her, and she helped the people around her. But then something happened.
- **Let's read Acts 9:36–39 together.**
 - **Have you ever been in a maze or even inside a building with lots of hallways and corridors?** It can be tricky to find your way. Sometimes you might find yourself facing a wall instead of the exit. That's how it must have felt for Tabitha's friends and family. There was nothing anyone could do. Tabitha had died.
 - But they called for the apostle Peter anyway, hoping for some kind of miracle. Peter had been a close friend and follower of Jesus and played a big part in starting the Early Church. There wasn't much Peter could do for Tabitha, but he knew who he could call—someone who could do anything.
- **Let's find out more in Acts 9:40–43.**
 - Peter prayed. That's all he could do. But God could do so much more. God brought Tabitha back to life. The people were so happy to have Tabitha back, and seeing her alive again helped more people believe in Jesus.
 - Isn't that a-maze-ing? Peter prayed to God, God answered his prayer, and God turned an impossible situation around. It doesn't mean the answers to our prayers will always be a "yes,"

though. Sometimes, the answer is “no” or “not yet.” But God’s help is always right on time and just what we need to move forward and find our way.

- Imagine you were one of the people there who saw God’s power in action for the first time. They probably couldn’t wait to see *what’s next!*

BIG IDEA | We can pray for others.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you’ll need a foam board cut into five pieces using a craft knife—you can shape the edges like jigsaw puzzle pieces or make straight edges. Write one word of the Big Idea on each piece and hide them around the room. Invite kids to find the pieces and put them together in the center of the room.
- **Now that we learned from the Bible story, what’s next?** It’s time for the Big Idea! Let’s piece this puzzle together.
- **We can pray for others.**

VIDEO | “Speed Cubing”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a video (like [this](#)) of a “speed cuber.” We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it’s a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#) Optional: If you have a speed cuber in your ministry, let them demonstrate live and bring in a few Rubik’s cubes and let the kids try it themselves for fun.

✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Provide 2x2 Rubik’s cubes for preteens and have them follow along with [this video](#) of how to solve it.

- **Isn’t it incredible how some people can solve a Rubik’s cube so fast?** They observe the problem and solve it in the blink of an eye.
- God has the power to solve problems even faster than anyone can solve a Rubik’s cube. Look how quickly God brought Tabitha back to life. But God doesn’t always answer prayers immediately.
- **Why do you think God does this?**
- God’s reasons might seem mysterious to us, but we can always trust that God sees the whole puzzle when we only see a small part. We can trust that when God’s answer is “wait” or even “no,” it’s because God looks out for us and knows better than we do.
- **That might make you wonder—if God knows everything, why should we even pray?**
- Prayer is a conversation with God. We don’t just pray when we need something from God. We pray because we want to talk to God, and we want to tell God what’s on our minds, to give thanks, and to share how we’re feeling. God loves hearing from us, especially when we pray for someone else, because God loves that person, too.
- **We can pray for others.**

ACTIVITY | Four Corner Convos

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, which is like “Four Corners,” label each corner of the room “school,” “home,” “church,” and “other.” Select one person to start as the caller, who counts to ten with their eyes closed while everyone else runs to the corners from the middle of the room. With eyes still closed, the caller names one of the corners, and then everyone in that corner shares with the group someone they can pray for at home, school, or church. For the “other” corner, kids can think about people to pray for that they don’t normally see at home, school, or church. Repeat with a new caller.
- Just thinking about the places we go and the people we see every day reminds us just how many opportunities we have to pray for others. No matter what corner of the world you are in, there is always someone you can talk to God about.
- **We can pray for others.**

SCRIPTURE | James 5:13–16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage together.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** As preteens are realizing how much impact their voice has in the world, challenge them to use their voice for others. For this week, encourage them to pray in their hearts for each person they come in contact with.

- We know that Jesus calls us to follow him, but what's next? **We can pray for others. This passage reminds us** to pray in every situation because "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
- **Who is a righteous person?** Anyone who follows Jesus. That includes you and me. That means our prayers can be powerful and effective, too.
- But that doesn't mean that everything will always turn out the way we want when we pray. Prayer is about connecting with God and following what God wants for us. Even though we may not know the outcome, we can continue to pray and trust what God does next.

VIDEO | *What's Next?*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Puzzle Station

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need a bin filled with small [brain teaser toys](#), maze workbooks, or easy jigsaw puzzles for kids to complete as they think about the prompts below.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Mazes and puzzles involve the use of perceptual and motor planning skills which may pose a challenge to some kids with disabilities. Offer help early on in order to minimize frustration.
- **We can pray for others**, but sometimes our minds are the biggest puzzles standing in the way of us doing what Jesus wants us to do. But when we take a moment to pray and reflect on what God is saying to us, God helps us understand and see the way more clearly.
 - **What do you think Peter said when he prayed for Tabitha?**
 - **Who is someone you know whom you can pray for today?**
 - **Who is someone you don't know very well that you can pray for?**
 - **Can you think of someone you've never met who lives in a different part of the world that needs your prayers?**

RESPONSE | A-Maze-ing Prayers

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, create a simple circular path using rope or painter's tape. You can use a template [like this](#) to help you create a walkable path. Have kids take turns starting at the entrance and praying silently until they reach the center.
- We can lift up prayers for others at any time, even when we're walking from one place to another. **As you go through this maze, think about one person and pray for them until you reach the center.**
- Praying can be this simple. We do not have to beg or convince God to do something when we pray. God loves us and wants the best for us. We can be honest about our hopes and wants. That means:
 - We can ask God to make our sick family members well.
 - We can ask God to help our friends do well in their new schools.
 - We can ask God to let there be peace in different parts of the world.
- As we pray these things, we can also ask God to help us be okay with whatever the outcome is because God knows more than we do.
- **We can pray for others** and trust that God will take care of them.

MEMORY VERSE | Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- **“In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for letting us talk to you at any time through prayer because of Jesus. Help us remember to not only pray for ourselves but also for our loved ones, neighbors, and people all around the world. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME**DISCUSSION**● **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **What are some things Tabitha did for her community?** *She was always doing good and helping the poor. She made robes and other clothing for people.*
- **Why do you think the disciples called for Peter even though Tabitha was already dead?** *Possible answers: They wanted him to grieve with them. They wanted him to comfort them. They were hoping for a miracle.*
- **What did Peter do when he got to the place where Tabitha was? What happened afterward?** *He sent everyone out of the room, knelt down, and prayed. When he told her to get up, she came back to life!*
- **Read James 5:15. How does this verse describe the prayer of a righteous person?** *It is powerful and effective.*

● **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **How do you usually pray? What could you do to talk to God more throughout the day?**
- **Who is someone you want to pray for this week?**
- **If God already knows everything that we need, why do you think we should pray anyway?**

ACTIVITY | Word Search Recap

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need writing utensils, highlighters, and one [printable](#) for each kid. Have them fill in the grid with the keywords provided from the Bible story and Big Idea in different directions (forward, backward, diagonally, vertically, horizontally). They can add a few of their own words if they would like, such as the names of people they want to pray for. Remind them to write each word that they hide in a list on the side. Once they've arranged all the words, have them fill in the remaining spaces with random letters. Then, have kids swap and solve each other's puzzles using highlighters.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Turn up the challenge for preteens by having them use a mix of lowercase and uppercase letters in their word search.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Use an online word search maker to create a simple word search of the Big Idea words. You can print it for the kids or, if using a word search maker like [this one](#), you can have it available on tablets or leader's phones for kids to play online.
- When we pray to God, it shouldn't feel like a word search where we have to search for the right words to say. We just need to speak from our hearts and let God do the rest!
- **We can pray for others.**