

BIG IDEA

We can pray
for others.

BIBLE

Peter Prays for Tabitha:
Acts 9:36–43

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.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Friend, Get Up!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have all of the kids lie on the floor and name one person to be "it." That person will go around gently tapping kids who are lying down and saying, "(Name of kid), get up!" Make sure you give examples of appropriate touch. Once tapped, kids have to stand up as fast as they can. Play a few times, allowing different kids to be "it."
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Emotions run big for toddlers. Their anger will be loud and physical, and their sadness will be tearful and fussy. Be sure to support each toddler in their feelings while offering calm reassurance and prayers for God to help them feel better. Toddlers will match your peace if you hold them and breathe deep and slow.
- In today's Bible story, we'll learn how Peter prayed for a friend and told her to get up!

ACTIVITY | Who Prayed For Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will lead kids in a game similar to "Heads Up, Seven Up." Choose two to six kids (depending on your group size, you can adjust to have more or less) to come to the front of the room. Everyone else closes their eyes, folds their hands, and bows their heads. No peeking! The kids at the front will quietly pick one of the kids who have their eyes closed and touch them on the shoulder. Remind kids that they should not open their eyes even when they feel someone touching their shoulder. After they have made their selection, have them return to the front of the room, and everyone can open their eyes. Invite kids who felt someone touch their shoulder to stand up and guess which of the kids in the front tapped them by pointing to one and asking, "Did you pray for me?" Preschoolers may not remember or think they were when they weren't tapped, so leaders should keep track of who was selected. You could even use stickers to help. If correct, they switch places for the next round.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Teach toddlers how to play "Duck, Duck, Goose" instead. Make sure you walk with each toddler around the circle, guiding how they touch their friends and helping them avoid potential tripping hazards.

- Great job praying for each other in this game! This game showed us that we can pray out loud or quietly for each other. Amazing things can happen when we pray and ask for God's help.

STORY TIME

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below.
- The Bible is a lot like a puzzle. Each Bible story is like a puzzle piece. The more we learn from the Bible, the more we can know about God!
- In today's Bible story puzzle piece, a man named Peter shows how powerful praying to God is.
 - There once lived a woman named Tabitha. She was a friend and helper to lots of people. The people in her community loved her.
 - But something terrible happened. She became very sick and died. Everyone who knew her was really sad.
 - Sometimes, people get sick and get better, and sometimes they don't and, sadly, die. It doesn't mean God doesn't care about them. It means it was their time to go be with God.
- But it turns out it wasn't Tabitha's time to go yet. People found out Peter was nearby, and they sent a message to him to come right away.
 - Peter was a close follower of Jesus. After Jesus went up to heaven, Peter began spreading the good news about Jesus to everyone. God's Spirit was with him, and he performed miracles with God's power.
 - **What do you think Peter could do?**
 - Peter could not do much, but he knew God could!
- Peter went to the room where they laid Tabitha's body.
 - He asked everyone to leave the room.
 - Then he got down on his knees and started to pray. Sometimes when we pray to God, we can kneel like this.
 - **Do you want to try that with me?**
- Then Peter said to Tabitha, "Tabitha, get up."
 - **What do you think happened?**
 - She got up! Tabitha opened her eyes. She sat up. She stood up. She was alive again!
 - Everyone who heard the news was so happy, and many people who heard this story decided to follow God, too.
- We're not telling God what to do when we pray. We are asking God to show us what's next. When we pray and ask for something impossible, God sometimes says "yes," "no," or "not yet." We can trust whatever answer God gives us is the best one!

BIG IDEA | We can pray for others.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the puzzle pieces you used in the Week 1 Big Idea reveal. Add another piece since there are five words this week, or double up on words on one of the pieces. Write each word of the Big Idea on strips of painter's tape, and attach these to the pieces before hiding them. You may want to have a sample to show kids what they're looking for. Once all the pieces are found, bring them together and fit them together. Then read the Big Idea aloud. Have the kids repeat after you once, then say it a few times using the motions below.
- Last time we learned that we can follow Jesus. Peter was a long-time follower of Jesus. Peter prayed for Tabitha, and God brought her back to life!

- Our Big Idea tells us what's next after we choose to follow Jesus.
 - **We can** (Flex both arms.)
 - **pray** (Prayer hands.)
 - **for others.** (Hands wide open and facing outwards.)

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

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

ACTIVITY | Four Corners Convo

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, print out the [printables](#) and place them in each corner of the room, labeling them family, friends, neighbors, and the world. Walk with kids to each corner. Point to the picture and have kids share who they can pray for in this group of people. Repeat for the remaining three corners. Then bring everyone to the center. Say a short prayer and have kids run to the corner it pertains to.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Offer toddlers a chance to have a happy dance party. Talk about how the people were happy that praying for Tabitha helped her. Use an upbeat song like [this](#) and dance along with the toddlers.
- We can talk to God about the things we need, but we can also pray for what other people need.
 - **Who in your family needs your prayers?**
 - **Who among your friends needs your prayers?**
 - **Can you pray for your neighbors? What can you say?**
 - **What about our world? How does our world need God's help?**
- Now I'm going to say a short prayer, and you can run to the corner that tells me who I'm praying about. Is it a family member? Is it a friend? Is it a neighbor? Is it the world?
 - Dear God, please help my brother make good friends at his new school.
 - Dear God, please help my friend Mel find her missing cat.
 - Dear God, please help Mrs. Lee next door get better from her cold.
 - Dear God, please help our world be a safe and loving place.
- **Do you think God heard us?** Of course, God heard us! That's why **we can pray for others.**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for hearing us when we pray to you. Remind us to pray for others because you love them, too! Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | PB & Pray

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and cut them into the shape of hands using [hand-shaped cutters](#). You can replace the peanut butter with [sunflower butter](#), [granola butter](#), or [cookie butter](#) (if using this option, you may want to leave out the jelly, as it will be pretty sweet on its own). Encourage kids to hold the sandwich up longways so that they can see the two hands together as if they are praying.
- God did something amazing when Peter prayed for Tabitha! God does amazing things all the time, even without us asking. But God wants us to pray anyway. Talking to God helps us grow closer to God.
- **What would you say if you could get God on the phone or video chat? What can you tell God about your day?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the [sensory bottles](#) you made in Week 1 using [puzzle-shaped confetti](#) and oil or sand

and jigsaw puzzle pieces or [plastic puzzle pieces](#) to help kids calm down and focus on reviewing the Bible story together. You can allow kids to pass the bottle around and shake it as they answer the questions together.

- **What was the name of the woman who died in today's Bible story?** Tabitha (or Dorcas).
- **Who did the people ask to come see Tabitha?** Peter.
- **What did Peter do when he went into Tabitha's room?** He told everyone to leave. He got on his knees and prayed to God.
- **What did Peter say to Tabitha? What happened?** "Tabitha, get up!" She got up. She was alive again.
- **Who can we pray for?** We can pray for others—friends, family, neighbors, and the whole world.

ACTIVITY | Prayer Wheels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this craft, print the [printable](#) on cardstock paper. Have kids color in the images and draw anyone they'd like in the empty space. Have kids cut out the circles and the wedge on the first circle. Then help them push a brass fastener through the middle to connect the two circles. Show kids how to turn the circles so that the open wedge reveals a new group of people they can pray for.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers are not developmentally able to draw pictures to represent things just yet. Make sure you assemble the wheels for toddlers in advance so they just need to color. For a low-prep alternative, trace the hands of each toddler on construction paper and allow them to scribble and color however they'd like.
- Use this wheel to help you remember who you can pray for. Talk to God about your family, friends, neighbors, and everyone in the world. Don't forget—**we can pray for others.**

MEMORY VERSE | Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words and the Scripture reference to the tune of "[Brahms' Lullaby](#)." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Recreate The Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide dollhouse figurines or action figures to have preschoolers reenact the Bible story.

ACTIVITY | Prayer Hands

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out some [hand clappers](#) and let everyone play with them. Talk about how this reminds us of prayer hands. When we pray to God, we can expect God to hear us and do amazing things.