

Peter Heals through Peter- Acts 9:32-43

THE POINT

Focus:

- God has power over death.
- God works through God's people.

Application:

- We recognize God's strength and power.
- We trust God to build the church.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (6-8 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- measuring materials- yard stick, ruler, measuring tape, etc.
- a handful of small and large objects (it's possible just to use things you already have in the classroom)

Content:

The point of this activity is to talk about the inability of human beings- we have some skills, but sometimes we fall short. Other times, someone else can do something that we have difficulty with. God can do all things!

Have kids help you with various measurements- their shoe, a table, the length of the rug, their nose. Gradually increase the measurement to something harder (the height of the classroom- possible for you, but not for them), and then something impossible (distance to the moon).

Talk about how we have human gifts and limitations, but God has every ability. God's power is at work in the world, and God works in and through us!

STORY CONNECTION (7-8 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- 5-8 figurines
- felt rectangle to serve as mat (v. 34)
- felt square to be the bedroom and rectangle to be bed (v. 37)
- felt cut-outs of clothing (v. 39)
- felt heart cut-outs with gray on one side and red on the other*

*To represent a heart made alive in Christ, begin the story with hearts around the edge of the story area flipped so the gray side shows (dirty or dead in Christ) and then when you read that "many people believed" flip these hearts to show the red "alive" side. If you'd like to make this portion interactive, you can have each child keep a heart in front of them for the story, flipping the heart from gray to red when they hear "believed".

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Part of this story refers to “Dorcas” and part refers to “Tabitha”. They are the same person! One is her Greek name, and one is her Hebrew name.

Acts 9:32-43

32 Peter traveled around the country. He went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda. 33 There he found a disabled man named Aeneas. For eight years the man had spent most of his time in bed. 34 “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up! Roll up your mat!” So Aeneas got up right away. 35 Everyone who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him. They turned to the Lord.

36 In Joppa there was a believer named Tabitha. Her name in the Greek language is Dorcas. She was always doing good and helping poor people. 37 About that time she became sick and died. Her body was washed and placed in a room upstairs. 38 Lydda was near Joppa. The believers heard that Peter was in Lydda. So they sent two men to him. They begged him, “Please come at once!”

39 Peter went with them. When he arrived, he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him crying. They showed him the robes and other clothes Dorcas had made before she died.

40 Peter sent them all out of the room. Then he got down on his knees and prayed. He turned toward the dead woman. He said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and especially the widows. He brought her to them. They saw that she was alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa. Many people believed in the Lord. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for some time. He stayed with Simon, a man who worked with leather.

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it was like for Aeneas to walk again.

I wonder how Dorcas' friends felt as they gathered around.

I wonder how Peter felt when he saw God's miracle.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.