

31. Peter and Tabitha



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## 31

# Peter and Tabitha

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Peter and Tabitha" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close in prayer, thanking God for people who help others. Ask God to give them the strength and energy to serve. Ask God to give us hearts that want to help others too.*

*If you have time before your prayer, talk about people in your church or community who are always helping others, and then include them in your prayer.*

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #150\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Give each child a copy of [these story pictures](#). Have them color them and cut them apart. Children who finish before others can shuffle their pictures and then put them back in order while retelling the story. Once everyone has their pictures in order, staple the left side to create a book. Encourage the children to take the books home and share the story with their families.*

*If you're meeting virtually, remember to send the printable page to parents or mail a copy of it to the children so they can create a book at home.*

## Story: Peter and Tabitha [Acts 9:36-43](#)

*Open your Bible to show the children that this story is located in the book of Acts. Read [Acts 9:36](#).*

Our story begins with this introduction to a woman named Tabitha who shared the good news of Jesus by caring for those around her.

One day Tabitha became very sick. Her friends gathered to be with her. They hoped that she would soon be well. But instead she became even sicker. Soon it was too late to look for help from anyone. Tabitha died.

Carefully Tabitha's friends washed her body and laid it gently on a bed in an upstairs room. Although her friends could do nothing more to help her, they stayed at Tabitha's house to cry together. They missed her already! They talked about their friend and remembered how loving and cheerful she had been. They showed each other the wonderful clothing Tabitha had sewn for them—and they remembered how she used each day to do kind things for others.

Hearing that Peter was near Tabitha's home, her friends sent two men to him and asked him to come to them as soon as possible.

Tabitha's house was filled with friends when Peter got there. **I wonder how Peter felt when he saw the sad faces of Tabitha's friends.** (*Pause for responses.*) Peter felt the sadness all around him as people told him about Tabitha—how sick she had been, how at last she had died, how much they missed her already. As they wiped their teary faces, the people in the house took Peter up the stairs to the room where her body lay.

The friends showed Peter the colorful clothes Tabitha had made for them. When Peter saw their sad faces and looked at the clothes from Tabitha, he could see that she had been a wonderful friend, someone who did kind and loving things for people around her. But more than that Peter knew that Tabitha belonged to Jesus. Peter could tell that her loving heart and kind ways had come from loving Jesus.

Peter asked Tabitha's friends to please leave the room, and he closed the door behind him. Then Peter quietly got on his knees and began to pray to Jesus. **I wonder what Peter prayed to Jesus.** (*Pause for responses.*)

Peter stood beside the bed and looked at Tabitha. Then he spoke to her as if she were alive, as if she were listening: "Tabitha, get up!" And Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up. She was alive! Jesus had made Tabitha alive again! Peter held out his hand and helped her out of bed. **I wonder if anyone there thought Jesus was powerful enough to make Tabitha live again. Are you surprised that Jesus is so powerful?** (*Pause for responses.*)

What a wonderful surprise! When Peter called Tabitha's friends to come, they could hardly believe what they were seeing—their friend was alive, just the way they remembered her! Can you imagine how excited Tabitha's friends must have been to see her alive again?

But the wonderful surprise didn't come from Peter. It was a miracle from Jesus. Only Jesus could bring Tabitha back to life again. The good news spread everywhere: Tabitha was alive again. Jesus had given life back to Tabitha! Her friends told the amazing story to everyone who would listen. And many people knew then that Jesus has power to do amazing things. And from that very day, many people wanted to belong to Jesus and live for him—just like Tabitha did.

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Peter and Tabitha](#)
  - [4th-5th Grade: Tabitha](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: A Caring Community](#)
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