



UNIT 32 | SESSION 1

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

ACTS 9

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Holy Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12



PREPARE

YOUR HEART TO TEACH



PREPARE
PREPARE YOUR HEART
TO TEACH



WELCOME
GREET PRESCHOOLERS
and OPEN
THE SESSION



LEARN
TEACH PRESCHOOLERS
THE STORY
OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE
LEAD PRESCHOOLERS
TO LOVE THE GOD
OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE
LEAD PRESCHOOLERS
TO LIVE OUT THE
MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LEADER Bible Study

Peter's miracles in Acts 9 showcase the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the early church. Though the people who witnessed and heard of these healings and resurrections were amazed and intrigued, Peter did not perform them to wow the crowd or to even illustrate his own strength. Rather, he met people's needs as a means of demonstrating God's power at work, that more may come to saving faith in Jesus and truly believe Him to be Messiah and Lord.

What was the significance of the restoration of Aeneas and the revival of Dorcas? What did these events reveal about Christ's saving power through the faith of Peter?

Both instances of Peter's miraculous acts were evidence of Christ's power to heal despite the impossible circumstances. While Christ's power through Peter brought physical healing to the man in Lydda, it also brought spiritual healing to the people in Lydda and Sharon as they turned to the Lord. Similarly, Dorcas' resurrection was used by God to draw many people to faith in Christ—the One who holds power over the grave.

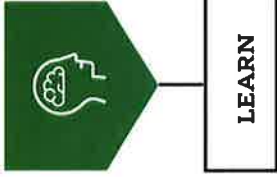
These miracles performed by Peter point to the reality of Jesus' power and to the proof that He is still alive within His followers. The usual patterns of sickness and death were

not the final endings for Aeneas and Dorcas; rather, they were the work of the Lord's restoration and redemption—pointing to the reality that everlasting life is ours through the power of Jesus. And through these events, we are encouraged to remember the hope we have in Christ, who is making all things new.

As you lead your preschoolers this week, remember that you, too, get to share the good news of hope and healing to the next generation of young disciples. Just as Peter “called the saints and widows and presented [Dorcas] alive,” so, too, are you proclaiming the gift of everlasting life you have in Jesus.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Dorcas: a Christian woman of Joppa who was known for her charitable works (Acts 9:36). She was also called Tabitha, an Aramaic name.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show preschoolers a stuffed animal. Talk about how a child might play with the toy. Guide the conversation, and direct children to consider that a stuffed animal might be used to comfort someone when they are going to bed.

SAY 🗨️ Isn't it nice to hug a stuffed animal when you are sleeping in bed? You did not stay in bed today, though. You woke up, got out of bed, and had breakfast. Then you got dressed and came to church! In today's Bible story, we will hear about two people who could not get out of bed. I hope you listen closely to the story to learn why. 🗨️

2 LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE

Place a bookmark at Acts 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY 🗨️ Today's true story from the Bible is found in the book of Acts. Acts is in the New Testament part of the Bible. It tells about the things that happened shortly after Jesus went back to heaven to be with His Father, God. 🗨️

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or small group timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

3 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling tips or show the video. Use the bold version of the Bible story for younger preschoolers.

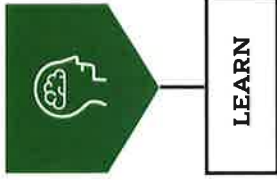
PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

🗨️ Peter had become a leader in the early church. **God gave power to Peter and to Jesus' other disciples to heal people and to tell others about Jesus.** At this time, the church had peace and was strengthened. More people joined the church.

Peter was traveling from place to place. He **visited** the Christians living in a town called Lydda (LID uh). **A man named Aeneas (ih NEE uhs) lived there. Aeneas was could not walk and had to stay in bed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus heals you. Get up and make your bed." Aeneas got up right away. When this happened, many people believed in the Lord.**

In the city of Joppa (JAHP uh), there was a follower of Jesus named Dorcas. She was always doing good works—helping people in need and making clothes for widows. Over time, Dorcas got sick and died. The disciples in Joppa sent two men to get Peter.

Peter came to Joppa. He went upstairs in the house where Dorcas' body lay. Peter sent Dorcas'



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

friends out of the room and **kneled down beside her body. Peter prayed. Then he said, “Dorcas, get up.”**

She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. Peter called for the disciples and friends, and they saw that Dorcas was alive! People throughout the city heard about this miracle, and many believed in the Lord. 33

4 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY 66 The Holy Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God. 33

5 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY 66 What amazing things God did through Peter! Aeneas was healed, and Dorcas was made alive again! The Holy Spirit gave Peter the power to do miracles, like Jesus did. When people saw those miracles, many believed in Jesus. Let’s see what you remember from the story. **Why could Aeneas not get out of bed? (He could not walk.) What did Peter tell him to do? (Get up and make your bed.) What happened to Dorcas? (She had died.) What happened when Peter knelt beside her body and prayed? (Dorcas sat up; she was alive.)** These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus’ miracles proved that He is the Son of God. 33

6 PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration.

SAY 66 You have two eyes, one mouth, ten little toes, and one stomach. All the parts of you work together to make you who you are. In our key passage, Paul explained that the church works in a similar way. People in church have different jobs to do. Even in today’s story, Dorcas helped people in need. Peter traveled around and taught people about Jesus. The church needs people to do all kinds of different things. 33

Sing the key passage song, “So Also Is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Sit on a blanket: Invite preschoolers to sit on a blanket or sleeping bag as they listen to the story. Remark that Peter healed both Aeneas and Dorcas and told them to get up out of their beds.

Play out the story with dolls: Use baby dolls or other people figures to portray Peter, Aeneas, and Dorcas. Play out the story with the dolls as it is told.

Get Up!

INSTRUCTIONS: Look at the pairs of pictures and fill in the circle under the picture that shows the direction UP in each pair.



NAME:



Peter Performed Miracles

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- God gave power to Peter and to Jesus' other disciples to heal people and to tell others about Jesus.
- Peter healed a man who could not walk. Peter also prayed for a woman named Dorcas who had died, and she became alive again!
- People heard about these miracles, and many believed in the Lord.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Holy Spirit gave Peter power to do miracles. People saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus. Jesus' miracles proved that He is the Son of God.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.



Finger Puppets
Instructions: Print one copy per preschooler. Use as directed in the leader guide.

