

# June 7 Lesson



Bible Passage: Acts 9:36–42

(Peter and Tabitha)

## The Lord Who Heals

### Remember Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

### Items to gather:

- Markers or colored pencils
- Paper (1 sheet per person)
- Tape
- Whiteboard with dry erase markers or a chalkboard
- Clothing (2 sets of items; large; e.g., shirts, sweaters, overalls, shorts)
- Timer
- Bible
- Fabric (1 small piece per child approx. 5" x 8", plain colors)
- Fabric markers

# LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find a list of resources along with encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

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## **Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

Two weeks from now is the second anniversary of the death of my sister-in-law. She and my brother had been married only a year when they discovered her leukemia. What they thought would be an easy treatment turned into grueling chemo sessions that failed to stop her cancer. She lasted only seven months after her diagnosis—the cancer was too strong and would not quit destroying her body.

I was in the room as my sister-in-law was passing away. It was a raw and awful time that I will never forget. As she struggled to let go, my mom and I sat and prayed with her. We spoke of the healing God brought her through the death of Jesus for her sins. We spoke of the peace He is able to offer when all around us is broken. We cried over the truth that God is victorious, but death has not yet quite lost its sting.

The Lord did not physically heal my sister-in-law. We grieved at her funeral and struggled through many dark days. But although God didn't heal her body, He healed her soul. She had accepted Christ and knew of the power of His resurrection. The sin that affects us all was wiped clean from her life by the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit. The Lord who heals brought new life to my sister-in-law, and one day we will see her again and rejoice with her. Together we will worship the Healer in glory.

*Denise Snyder*  
Crossroads Church

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## **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

Peter plays a large role in the first half of Acts before Paul takes over the narrative. The first part of Acts 9 tells of Saul's (Paul's) conversion, and here we continue to see how the message of Jesus starts to spread to a wider region.

Peter goes to Lydda, northwest of Jerusalem, where he heals a man in Jesus' name, which causes many to believe. Meanwhile, Tabitha, a woman who helped the poor, becomes ill in Joppa. Joppa is a seaport on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Because it was closer to Jerusalem than Caesarea, it became a principal port for Israel.

Peter is called to Joppa when Tabitha dies, showing how the message of Jesus continues to move out from Jerusalem. Peter raises Tabitha from the dead in a way very similar to Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter in Mark 5. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter, He told the girl to rise: "Talitha koum!" (Mark 5:41). Here in Joppa, Peter raises Tabitha with "Tabitha, koum." The parallels here are not insignificant. Jesus passed on the powers He possessed to His followers through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

This miracle becomes known all over Joppa, and many start believing in Jesus. Because Joppa is a seaport, it's likely that the message of Jesus starts going out to sea and continues to spread the good news to the ends of the earth.

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## **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Throughout the Bible, God's prophets heal others in order to show His power. The ministry of Jesus continues this

phenomenon, and then, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' followers begin healing in His name. These very real physical healings that take place validate the power of Jesus. Have you ever known someone whom Jesus healed physically?

When these healings take place, God does much more than just heal one person. Those who hear of the miracle begin to believe, and God heals them spiritually. God changes hearts and transforms people's lives as they understand that Jesus is the One who came to save. When were you spiritually healed by the Father? The children in your group come from all types of situations. Some face physical illnesses in their bodies or in their family members' bodies. Others are hurt emotionally or spiritually. The beautiful thing is that our Lord heals it all. He is the One who can bind up the brokenhearted as well as heal our physical wounds.

As you prepare to interact with your children this week, pray for them as specifically as possible. Pray for areas in their lives where you know they need healing and ask God to use you as His instrument in whatever way possible. Then, as you go through your time with the kids, be sensitive to those who may be broken and may need extra attention. Encourage them with the truth that our God heals and makes all things new.

## CONNECT//10 minutes



### That's Amazing!

In this CONNECT time, your family will take turns telling each other about amazing things they've seen.

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### RELATE

**CONNECT QUESTION:** Open your time by asking this question: **What's the most amazing thing that's ever happened to you?**

We each have stories of amazing things we've heard about or even seen with our own eyes. Today invite your family to share some of those stories as they play a game of That's Amazing! To play, have everyone take turns sharing a personal story of the most amazing thing they've ever seen. It could be something they've seen in person, in school, on TV, or in a movie. Once each person shares their story, everyone else should reply in unison, "That's amazing!" Give each person the opportunity to share.

## GATHER//30 minutes



### Remember Verse

Each week children will spend time memorizing a portion of Scripture together. The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in today's portion of The Big God Story.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

### Game: Draw the Verse

#### SUPPLIES

- Markers or colored pencils
- Paper (1 sheet per person)
- Tape

## RELATE

Assign 5-6 words of the Remember Verse to each person. Invite the kids to draw a picture or symbol to represent their words in the Remember Verse. Then put the pictures in order and tape them to a wall in your room. Have everyone repeat the Remember Verse using the pictures they made. Say the verse together until the children know it well.

## Storytelling

**Bible Passage: Acts 9:36–42**

**Storytelling Technique: Objects**

**The Lord Who Heals**

## RELATE

After Jesus went up to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with all who choose to trust and obey Him. Before He left, Jesus gave His disciples a very important job. What was it? Pause for responses. **Yes—Jesus told them to go and tell the world that He is the way to be with God forever. Many people heard the good news of Jesus and believed in Him. Some even sacrificed their lives to make sure the people of the world heard the truth about Jesus. Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts today.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

Let’s watch the storytelling video to learn more.

In this part of The Big God Story, God showed that He is the Lord who heals. Through Peter, God did a great miracle that brought Tabitha back to life and helped more people know about Jesus. There is no sickness too great for God to heal! He has power over everything, and He is able to restore health and make people new. Share a personal story of how you or someone you know experienced the Lord who heals.

## Discussion Questions

- What did Tabitha do for the people in Joppa? Acts 9:36, 39
- What did the people do for Tabitha when she died? Acts 9:37–38
- What did Peter do when he arrived? Acts 9:39–40 Why do you think that was important?
- What happened in Joppa after Tabitha came back to life? Acts 9:42
- How has God shown you that He is the Lord who heals?

**RESPOND**//15 minutes



## Praying for Healing

Your family will have the opportunity to pray for individuals who need God’s healing.

## SUPPLIES

- Whiteboard with dry erase markers or a chalkboard

## SET UP

Write “The Lord Who Heals” in the center of the board.

## RELATE

**God is the Lord who heals! He holds the power to heal, and we can trust Him to care for us and those we love. God showed that He heals through the disciples. God shows other people who He is through us. Isn’t that**

**amazing? The Holy Spirit lives inside us like He lived inside the apostles, so we also have the power to pray for the sick! Who do you know who needs healing?** Invite responses. As everyone shares, invite them to come up to the board and write each person's name.

After your children finish sharing, spend a few moments praying for the people on the board. Consider inviting the children to pray one- or two-sentence prayers out loud. Then spend some time thanking God for caring for us and our needs.

## Game: Clothes Race

Today lead your kids in a clothes race.

### SUPPLIES

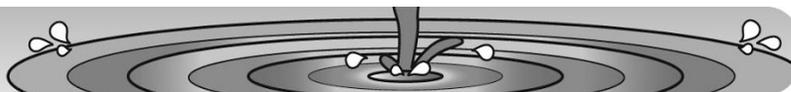
- Clothing (2 sets of items; large; e.g., shirts, sweaters, overalls, shorts)
- Timer

### RELATE

**It was wonderful hearing you pray for our community. Part of taking responsibility for what God has given us is noticing what's around us. Out of that, we can reach out to others. Tabitha was a kind woman who noticed the poor in Joppa, and she made clothes to give to those in need.**

Invite your family to make one line, and time the group in putting the clothes on, taking them off, and passing them on to the next person. When your family finishes, you could have them repeat the game and see if they can beat their first time.

**BLESS//5 minutes**



### SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Fabric (1 small piece per child approx. 5" x 8", plain colors)
- Fabric markers

### RELATE

Invite your children to sit together in a circle. Give each child a piece of fabric. Encourage the children to cup their hands in front of them and hold the fabric in their hands as you read the blessing from Jeremiah 30:17.

**But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds.**

**May God care for your body, heart, and mind in every way. May He show Himself as the Lord who heals to you and those around you.**

Then pass out the fabric markers for the children to write their own words or phrases of praise to God on their fabric. For example, they might write "Healer," "Loving," or "Sees Me." Then encourage the children to hand their piece of fabric to the child next to them as they bless that person by saying, "May God heal you in every way." Encourage the kids to take their pieces of fabric home to remind them to look for people God desires to heal.