



Faith Adventures Youth Resource



Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR

Title: Acts 9: 36–42

Theme: Peter does a Jesus thing

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning? Please use this section as a reference and information guide for leaders only – we don't expect it to be read out to the children.

Welcome to week three of some lesser-known stories in the Bible. This week, we'll be looking at the story of Peter resurrecting Dorcas.

We are much more familiar with the miracles of Jesus, and we tend to focus on them – maybe that's why this story is often overlooked. However, it gives us some insight into what we can gain from being a follower of Jesus. Your group might ask, "From where did Peter get the power to do what he did?" and "What did Dorcas do to deserve being resurrected?" If so, try and let the other members of the group provide answers from their understanding first.

Dorcas (who is also known as Tabitha) was a faithful early follower of Jesus. She was known for being kind and charitable, particularly in making clothes for widows (who would have had very little after their husbands died).

Trigger warning: please be aware of members of your group who might be suffering bereavement or have a close relationship with someone who is ill. The story, and any discussions, will need to be handled sensitively.

Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

Active game – Stuck in the mud

Chose someone who will be the “tagger”. Everyone starts to run round, all trying to avoid the person designated as the tagger. When someone is tagged they become “stuck in the mud”. When someone is stuck in the mud they must stand still with their arms out to the sides. In order to free them from the mud, someone on their team must run under their arms. Then they are free to continue running from the people on the other team who are trying to get them stuck.

You can switch the teams up whenever you decide.

To make it more difficult, you could have more people who are on the team that tags others to get them “stuck in the mud”.

This game highlights the divine power Peter had that enabled him to raise Dorcas to life.

Quieter game - Dress up Beetle drive

This game simply plays with the images of getting up and getting dressed, like Dorcas, as well as linking to the idea that Dorcas made clothes.

You will need a pile of dressing up clothes for each person/group, a die per person/group and a list of instructions as below.

This is a race and can be played in small groups or as individuals, Roll the dice and dress yourself or a leader with each roll of the dice.

6 = Something on your head

5 = Something on your feet

4 = Something on your hands

3 = Something on your legs

2 = Something on your arms

1 = Something on your body

The winner is the one who is dressed first.

Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to the Contemporary English version

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ACTS%209%3A%2036-42&version=CEV>

Peter Brings Dorcas Back to Life

³⁶ In Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. Her Greek name was Dorcas, which means “deer.” She was always doing good things for people and had given much to the poor. ³⁷ But she got sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Joppa wasn't far from Lydda, and the followers heard that Peter was there. They sent two men to say to him, “Please come with us as quickly as you can!” ³⁹ At once, Peter went with them.

The men took Peter upstairs into the room. Many widows were there crying. They showed him the coats and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was still alive.

⁴⁰ After Peter had sent everyone out of the room, he knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the body of Dorcas and said, “Tabitha, get up!” The woman opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.

Peter called in the widows and the other followers and showed them that Dorcas had been raised from death. ⁴² Everyone in Joppa heard what had happened, and many of them put their faith in the Lord.

Copyright © 1995 by [American Bible Society](#) For more information about the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, visit www.bibles.com and www.cev.bible.

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on www.biblegateway.com
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: Listen to this song “God who moves the mountains”, by Integrity Music
<https://youtu.be/b3xsn6db2il?si=Tli1dZFciL3MOI6F>

Questions for discussion

- Do you believe that God can still move in amazing ways today?
- Have you seen any miracles in your life or in the lives of others?
- What does it mean to live a life in the power of God?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Swedish Bible study

Exploring the story and its emotions

There are a lot of different emotions in this story. Let's gather around the story to explore these emotions together. We will use a method called the Swedish Bible approach. Here's an example https://theresource.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Swedish_Bible_Study.pdf

Have the Bible passage as large as you can, so that it can be placed on a table in the middle of the children.

Give the children quality pens of different colours as well as stickers if you have any to hand.

Encourage the group to read the story together and pause to chat and write all over the passage. Encourage the group to consider what people were thinking at each stage, what emotions were there, what surprises them in the story, what questions the story raises, and so on.

When you heard the story, which emotion did you feel most?

This will lead you seamlessly into using some of the wondering questions in these resources.

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Volkswagen advert

<https://youtu.be/1n6hf3adNqk?si=KreFAe1a4NBQQSfa>

Watch as a young boy tries to prove he has powers.



When it finally works, he is confused as to whose power it really was.

Who did make the car work? The Bible says we live and move in the power of God in our lives (Acts 17 v 28). What does this mean to you? What does it look like in your life?

Group discussion

- Who would you like to have raised from the dead?
- Why do you think this is a lesser-told story, less well-known than some of Jesus' miracles?

Personal reflection

- How do you think Peter prayed? Did he ask God for power to bring her back or help to do it?
- How much faith do you need to do a miracle?
- What was the last thing that you prayed for?

Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

Praying together

Prayers Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Spoken prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the story of Dorcas,
a person whose faith was seen in the way she cared for others.

Help us to believe in you,
especially when life feels difficult or uncertain.
Give us courage to trust you,
strength to face challenges,
and compassion to notice the people around us who need help.

Remind us that faith isn't just about what we believe;
it's also about how we live and how we treat others.

This week, help us to take one step of faith:
to notice someone who needs encouragement,
to offer help where we can,
or to do something kind without expecting anything in return.

May our actions show something of your love to the people we meet.

Amen.

Offering prayers

You will need:

- strips of fabric

- marker pens
- somewhere to can hang the fabric

Write on your strip of fabric something you would like to pray for. This could be asking for help to deal with a difficult situation. This could be asking for guidance with something you are unsure of. This could be asking for protection in places of war.

Once you have written what you would like to pray for on your fabric you can hang it up somewhere, e.g. the edge of a table, or on a prayer tree if you have one.

The motion of moving the prayer upwards can be viewed as a metaphor for Peter raising Dorcas from the dead. Or it could also be seen as a metaphor for handing your prayers to God in heaven.

Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Rituals

Different faiths and different cultures grieve and mourn in different ways. The Jewish faith has a particular set of instructions/laws for what happens when someone dies. These have not changed a great deal from the earliest writings we have.

There are specific stages (including ANINUT, SHIVA and SHLOSHIM). These are not so much about the person who has died but are a structured, step-by-step path to help the living heal.

Research what the Jewish practices are and think about how they might help those who are mourning the death of a loved one.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts and insights together. **When was the last time someone did something kind and good for you?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources (jpit.uk) or *Commitment for Life* (cforl.co.uk).
- Be brave and take a risk this week: do something new, or something safe that has scared you (for me that would be holding a spider!).

Thank you for exploring the **Acts** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing sharon.lloyd@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on www.bit.ly/FACT_FB

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever . Amen

