

Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Dorcas

Acts 9:32-42



New Testament 4
Part 2: Lessons from the Apostle Peter

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURES:

Acts 9:32-42; Romans 12:10-13

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: “[B]e kind to one another” (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Ecclesiastes 9:10”](#)
- [“Dorcas”](#)
- [“Aeneas and Dorcas”](#)
- [“Dorcas was Raised”](#)
- [“Being Kind to Others”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- “Summary of the Bible” from [“Kids Prep”](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt figures
- Dress up as Dorcas and Aeneas and tell the story in the first person, possibly like a television interview
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Pictures of ways children can help others (including their family members) and ways that adults can help others
- “Helper Apron”—apron with pockets (a kitchen apron or a tool apron) containing objects to remind them of ways we can all help others. For example: greeting cards,



small broom or mop, small phone, toy food, or potholder, etc., or make barbecue-type apron out of felt and have pictures of objects in the pockets, backed with felt or Velcro, and put pictures on the apron as you talk about ways to help. See Learning Centers for how to make the apron.

- Pictures of people in need (after homes were destroyed in a storm or war; when war or crime or famine rob them of their homes, food, parents; when their parents don't have a job, etc.)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants us to use the talents He has given us to help others any way we can.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter became a leader in the Church. He did wonderful things while he taught others about Jesus. Today we are going to learn about two times he helped people while teaching about Jesus.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson.

Just like us, Peter often made mistakes, especially when he was first learning about Jesus and what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. But just like we grow physically stronger as we get older, Peter grew spiritually stronger the longer he knew the Lord and the longer he was a Christian. Peter ended up being one of the great leaders in the New Testament Church. He learned to help everyone, no matter what they looked like or how much money they had.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As many people who heard about Jesus decided to be baptized and become Christians, the Church continued to grow (Acts 9:31). Peter preached the very first sermon about Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. He had also gone with John to join Philip (i.e., the "deacon," not the apostle) in Samaria when the Gospel was preached there. Peter continued to travel throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, telling others about Jesus wherever he went. Many of those who heard him believed, and the Church continued to grow.
2. From Jerusalem, Peter went to the town of Lydda to visit the saints (i.e., the Christians there). There, Peter met a man named Aeneas who had been unable to move for eight long years. There were no hospitals or special services for handicapped people in those days. They could not get a job or take care of their families; they depended on the kindness of strangers to get through each day. They usually spent their days lying on their mats near busy places, begging for money from passersby. Peter had been with Jesus for three years and had seen Him heal people just like Aeneas. As Jesus had done so many times before, Peter had compassion on the poor man and **healed** him. "Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed," he said. The healing was immediate.



NOTE: Remind the older children that Peter and John had been involved in a similar healing in Acts 3. Also, Jesus had faced a similar situation in Matthew 9, Mark 2, and Luke 5, with the paralytic being lowered through the roof by four friends.

3. About 10 miles away, in the city of **Joppa**, a wonderful woman named **Dorcas** died. She was well-known and much-loved for all the kind things she did for others, like making clothes for people who needed them, especially widows. But she suddenly got sick and died. Everyone that knew her was very sad. As was their custom, women of the town washed her body to get it ready for burial. Then they put the body in an upstairs room. They heard that the great apostle Peter was in **Lydda**, probably because he had healed Aeneas. They sent two men to Lydda to beg Peter to come to Joppa as quickly as possible.

HISTORICAL NOTES:

- Joppa was a Roman port which is part of modern day Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
- Upstairs room: a room built on the top of a house
- While Lydda and Joppa were towns, Sharon (9:35) was a plain that extended from Lydda northward to Mount Carmel.

Bodies had to be buried right away, usually before sundown on the same day that the death occurred. The journey to and from Lydda probably took 3-4 hours each way. So, even if Dorcas died early in the day, the messengers and townspeople who loved her felt that Peter had no time to lose.



NOTE: Dorcas was her Greek name. She was also called Tabitha (the Syriac translation). Both names mean “gazelle” or “antelope.”

4. When Peter arrived at the house where Dorcas’ body was being kept, he found many sad people there. Remind the children about how Jesus felt when He came to Mary and Martha’s house after Lazarus died. The widows showed Peter some of the clothes Dorcas had made. Peter sent them all out of the room and prayed, just like Elisha had done at the Shunnamite woman’s house, and just as Jesus did at Jairus’ house. Then he called her by name and told her to get up. Immediately (just as Aeneas was healed), Dorcas opened her eyes and got out of bed! Peter called in the people who were anxiously waiting outside so that they could see that Dorcas was alive again. Can you imagine how excited and amazed they would have been?
5. News spread quickly about what had happened to Aeneas and Dorcas. These miracles, like all the others in the Bible, were done to prove that the things taught by God’s helpers (prophets, apostles, etc.) were from God, Himself. Many people believed in Jesus because of what Peter taught and the miracles he did with God’s help. Peter did what he could to help people—no matter who they were—with the talents and special abilities given to him by God.
6. Aeneas was probably a poor beggar who didn’t have many friends. We don’t really know if Dorcas was poor or not, but we do know she had many friends. Both of them needed help. It is easy to help our parents or friends. It isn’t hard to help people who live near us, worship with us, and look like us. But it might not be as easy to help those who are very poor (homeless, dirty, etc.). God has given us talents and blessings that He wants us to use to help other people—no matter who they are.

7. [Encourage the children to think about and talk about how blessed they are, compared to people less fortunate physically and materially.]

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “Peter Raises Dorcas Coloring Sheet” (provided in activity sheets)
- Prepare a “sewing card” for each child (in the shape of a robe, for example). Provide shoe strings (for athletic shoes) for the “sewing” activity.
- Help the children make and/or decorate get well cards for the sick and cards for the shut-ins of your congregation.
- Encourage the children to bring canned goods every Sunday morning and/or Wednesday night during this unit to add to your congregation’s pantry or to prepare food boxes for the needy.
- Help the children make their own “Helper Apron” out of fabric, brown wrapping paper, bulletin board paper, or gift wrap paper. Cut a piece about 28” long (depending on average height of your children) and 18-24” wide. (If at all possible, do this activity at the beginning of class and pre-laminate each apron if you choose to use paper products.) Cut two identical one quarter circles (or elliptical shapes) in the rectangle: one at the top right and one at the top left. With a hole punch, punch holes at each of the two top corners of the bib (i.e., the top corners of the quarter circles), and at the bottom corners of each of the quarter circles. Tie yarn or a shoe string connecting the two holes on the top left, and another piece connecting the two holes on the top right. Let the children write the memory verse on a card or adhesive label that can then be put on the bib (i.e., chest) of the apron after it’s laminated. Fold up three or four inches on the bottom of the rectangle and staple along the outside edges to form a pocket.
- Make a sign out of colored card stock with the older children’s memory verse (Ecclesiastes 9:10) typed on it, paint each child’s hands, and make their handprints on the sign. They could decorate the signs.
- Print a coloring sheet for each child. After they have colored the pictures, mount them on cardstock, laminate them, then cut them into large puzzle pieces.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Let the children make get well cards for the sick and cards for the shut-ins of your congregation.
- Encourage the children to bring canned goods every Sunday morning and/or Wednesday night during this unit to add to your congregation’s pantry or to prepare food boxes for the needy.
- Help the children make their own “Helper Apron” out of fabric, brown wrapping paper, bulletin board paper, or gift wrap paper. Cut a piece about 28” long (depending on average height of your children) and 18-24” wide. (If at all possible, do this activity at the beginning of class and pre-laminate each apron if you choose to use paper products.) Cut two identical one quarter circles (or elliptical shapes) in the rectangle: one at the top right and one at the top left. With a hole punch, punch holes at each of the two top corners of the bib (i.e., the top corners of the quarter circles), and at the bottom corners of each of the quarter circles. Tie yarn or a shoe string connecting the two holes on the top left, and another piece connecting

the two holes on the top right. Let the children write the memory verse on a card or adhesive label that can then be put on the bib (i.e., chest) of the apron after it's laminated. Fold up three or four inches on the bottom of the rectangle and staple along the outside edges to form a pocket.

- Play "Hang-Man" with words from the lesson.
- "[Peter Heals Crossword Puzzle](#)" (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Let the children make get well cards for the sick and cards for the shut-ins of your congregation.
- Encourage the children to bring canned goods every Sunday morning and/or Wednesday night during this unit to add to your congregation's pantry or to prepare food boxes for the needy.
- Take the children on a "field trip" to visit some of the shut-ins in your congregation.
- Play "Hang-Man" with words from the lesson.
- "[Peter Heals Crossword Puzzle](#)" (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - "[Dear Digger Doug](#)," *Discovery* magazine, October, 2010
 - *If Jesus Came to My House*, by Joan G. Thomas, Harper Collins Publishers (DISCLAIMER: Skip two pages depicting worship. You could tape them together.)
 - *Big Words for Little People*, Donna Lugg Pape, Standard Publishing

POEMS:

"DORCAS POEM"

Author: Lora Laycook

[illustrate with happy and sad faces on popsicle sticks or finger puppets]

This is Dorcas, gentle and good; she helped the widows all that she could. [show happy face]
One day she was sick, and then she died. [show opposite side, a sad face]
Poor widows were very sad. O how they cried! [show sad face]
Then Peter said to her, "Tabitha, arise!"
And all the widows were happy when she opened her eyes. [show happy face]

"AENEAS AND DORCAS ACTION POEM"

Author: Rhonda Thompson

There was a poor man named Aeneas, a poor man who could not walk.
Peter saw him and took his hand. [point to eye, then grab one hand with the other]
He said, "In Jesus' name, stand up!" [raise both hands as if to encourage someone to stand up]
Aeneas quickly jumped up and walked and everyone talked
[jump, walk in place, then move fingers as if a mouth is moving]
About this great deed Peter had done.

There was a kind woman named Dorcas, who gladly made clothes for the poor. [pretend to be sewing]
She loved so many and so many loved her, [cross arms over chest]
That when she got sick and suddenly died [put back of hand on forehead, then cover eyes with hand]
All those who loved her cried. [pretend to cry]
They sent for Peter because they had heard [move hands as if encouraging someone to come to you, then
put hand to ear as if listening for something]
Of the people he had healed.

He prayed and said, “Get up!” and she did! [Raise both hands as if to encourage someone to stand up]
And everyone rejoiced. [clap hands, jump up and down]

SONGS:

“ECCLESIASTES 9:10”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“DORCAS WAS RAISED” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook

(Tune: “Trust and Obey”)

In the Bible we find, Dorcas was very kind,
She was full of good works for the poor.
She was sick and then died, and the widows all cried
Until Peter kneeled down on the floor.

CHORUS:

“Tabitha, arise!” Simon Peter then cried.
They were happy, so happy, for she opened her eyes.

“BEING KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook (revised by Rhonda Thompson)

(Tune: “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Being kind to others, every night and day.
Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Jesus ever taught us that we must obey.

CHORUS:

O we must be kind! O we must be kind!
Jesus ever taught us that we must be kind.

(REPEAT)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
“SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE
CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Peter Heals Aeneas and Raises Dorcas

Acts 9:32-42



New Testament 4
Part 2: Lessons from the Apostle Peter

WEDNESDAY EVENING

New Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURES:

Acts 9:32-42; Romans 12:10-13

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "[B]e kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:32a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Ecclesiastes 9:10](#)"
- "[Dorcas](#)"
- "[Aeneas and Dorcas](#)"
- "[Dorcas was Raised](#)"
- "[Being Kind to Others](#)"

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [N.T. Disciples & Peter](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt figures
- Dress up as Dorcas and Aeneas and tell the story in the first person, possibly like a television interview
- [Map of New Testament World](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Pictures of ways children can help others (including their family members) and ways that adults can help others
- "Helper Apron"—apron with pockets (a kitchen apron or a tool apron) containing objects to remind them of ways we can all help others. For example: greeting cards, small broom or mop, small phone, toy food, or potholder, etc., or make barbecue-



type apron out of felt and have pictures of objects in the pockets, backed with felt or Velcro, and put pictures on the apron as you talk about ways to help. See Learning Centers for how to make the apron.

- Pictures of people in need (after homes were destroyed in a storm or war; when war or crime or famine rob them of their homes, food, parents; when their parents don't have a job, etc.)

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants us to use the talents He has given us to help others any way we can.

INTRODUCTION:

- [N.T. 4 Bible Fact Flashcards](#) (provided under "N.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Briefly review Sunday morning's lesson (see [N.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Continue talking about the things we have that we take for granted (running water, plumbing, electricity, enough food to eat, air conditioned houses, etc.) and people who don't have those things. It would be a good idea to illustrate what we do have, versus what other people (in other countries and in our own) do not have.
3. By our standards, Jesus and His apostles were poor. Some of His followers were wealthy (like Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and the women who helped Him financially), but most of the people who followed His teachings and listened to His sermons were very poor. Encourage the children to think about how we might react to Jesus if He came to our homes, to our schools, or to our Church buildings.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning's lesson
- Play Hang-Man or Tic Tac Toe with clues from lesson.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE "SUGGESTION" BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

