

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Easter 4**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**  
**Revised Common Lectionary Acts of the Apostles Readings – Track One**

**Scripture: Acts 9:36-43**

**Background**

Easter is one big celebration! It is a time for us to remember the Resurrection and that Jesus Christ our Lord is not dead but he is alive! We do it up big on Easter Sunday, but sometimes it is easy for us to forget that the celebration keeps going right up to Pentecost. It is also a time of year when we hope for Spring, if it has not already taken root in our neighborhood. We long for new life of plants and animals. It is a time for us to remember how special the gift of life is.

**A Notation for This Week's Story**

Today we hear how God uses Saint Peter to raise Tabitha, a faithful woman, from the dead. The story helps us to see that God's work and Jesus healing did not stop, but can be found in the followers of Jesus, even today. The story invites us to consider how Jesus is active in our own life and how we offer healing and comfort to others.

**Theme: Jesus Heals Through Us**

**Before Class:** You will need construction paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils and other craft supplies. You may also want to have the church prayer list handy for the activity.

**Beginning:** Gather the children together and welcome them. Good morning everyone and Happy Easter! It is so good to have you with us this morning. Today we are going to hear a story about how Saint Peter raised a woman named Tabitha from the dead! We each get to share with those who are sick or in need some of the hope and life of Jesus. Let's think about some of the times we have taken care or helped someone who was sick or in need, or perhaps when someone took care of us. Allow students to share briefly (*stayed home from school, made soup, brought water, etc.*)

**Opening Prayer:** Jesus we thank you that you are not far from us and that you come to us in special ways. Help us to know you are with us. Amen.

**The Story: Acts 9:36-43**

Invite a child to read the scripture for the day.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and

seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder what you liked about the story?
- I wonder what it would be like to be Tabitha?
- I wonder what it was like to be one of the people gathered?
- What did Tabitha do before she died? (good works and acts of charity)
- What might some of those good works and acts of charity have been? (feeding people who were hungry, sharing what she had with others, caring for the sick, etc.)
- How are some ways we do these things? (volunteering, sharing with our siblings, bringing in food for food cupboard, etc.)
- How was Peter able to help Tabitha? (he prayed)

**Activity:**

Those were some really good answers. I wonder if there aren't people we know who might need some help or healing? Can you think of anyone? (Allow students to share.) What if we made them cards to let them know we are thinking about them and praying for them.

Invite the children to use the materials on the table to create a card for someone who is sick or needs some cheering up or word of encouragement. If they are having a hard time thinking of people, make sure you have your church prayer list. Even if they don't know the people on the list, they can still make them cards and you can make sure they get sent to the appropriate people with the help of the church office.

**Getting Closure:** Wow, you all made some really special cards! (Allow students to share their cards if time allow.) Do you think that you might be able to help share Jesus' healing with someone else this week? How? (Allow students to share their answers) Jesus heals us and invites us to share that healing with others!

**Closing Prayer:** Jesus, thank you healing us when we are sick or in need, and thank you for inviting us to share your healing with others. Help us this week to share your love and healing with those we meet. Amen.

*Published by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of The Episcopal Church, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.*

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