

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Easter 4**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger 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**

Read this story from a children's bible or tell it in this way.

In the city of Joppa, there was a follower of Jesus named Tabitha. She was committed to doing good things and helping people out when they were in need. The Apostle Peter was near Joppa when she became sick and died. Her friends gathered around her and prepared her body for burial. People who knew that Peter was nearby asked him to visit and he came to the friends and family of Tabitha. When Peter arrived, they began showing him all of the things she had done and made for them. Peter knelt in front of Tabitha's body and prayed. He spoke to her and said, "Tabitha, get up." Tabitha opened her eyes and when she saw Peter she sat up. He helped her get up and called to those who had gathered to come and showed her to be alive. This became

known all over town and many believed in the Lord because of it. Peter stayed in Joppa a while with Simon who was 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. They may need help writing the names of the people for whom they are making the card. 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.

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