

My Bible Class Planner

Lesson Title:	Dorcas is Raised from the Dead	Mixed age group ages 4-11
Scripture References:	Acts 9:36-42	
Emphasis or Theme:	Helping Others	
Welcome and Pre-class Activity: <i>(what to do as children arrive-songs, attendance chart...)</i>	Have different clothes and clothing items laid out on the table . Hide some around the room for a scavenger hunt.	
Introducing the Story: <i>(create an interest)</i>	Ask the students to tell you ways that they have helped other people. How does the church help people? What other things could they/we do to help others? “Today we will learn about a woman that helped many people.”	
Telling the Story: <i>(outline of the story and the method I will use to tell it)</i>	<p>Story Outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dorcas was a disciple from Joppa. Always doing good and helping the poor. 2. She became sick and died. 3. Disciples urged Peter to come to Joppa. 4. Widows stood around crying and showing Peter clothing she had made. 5. Peter raised her from dead. 6. News spread and many believed in Jesus. <p>As you tell the story you will guide the children in making “people” out of pretzel sticks and then making clothing for them (like Dorcas). Children will have a “fashion show” to show their clothing.</p> <p>Instructions on next page.</p>	
Application Activities: <i>(games, crafts, activities)</i>	Do something nice/helpful for others in the church building. Ask the week before if there is any work that needs to be done such as straightening up or taking out trash. (Going outside to pick up fallen grapefruit is a good activity for this time) You could also have the students make thank you/encouragement cards for someone in the congregation who helps others.	
Review: <i>(games, crafts, activities, re-tell the story)</i>	Ask the students again now if they can think of ways they can help others this week. It can be simple things such as helping their mom with the dishes, picking up their rooms, or telling other people that they are thankful for them. It might be helpful to have the students write down their ideas so that they have something to help them remember throughout the week.	
Closing: <i>(prayer, last song...)</i>	Straighten up the classroom making a point to talk about how helpful this is. Final prayer.	
Preparation: <i>(What I need to do before I begin to teach this class)</i>	Gather supplies for “fashion show”.	

Fashion Show (to tell the story of Dorcas)

For each item tell a part of the story. Use your own words but the activity can go something like this:

The first thing you will give the students is the pretzel or sugar cookie. When you hand this out tell them that you are having a fashion show to honor a woman named Dorcas. She was a woman who helped others by making clothes or cloth for other people. Everyone loved her.

Then give them the next candy – dried fruit strips and say that she got sick one day and died.

Next candy – the people who love her go to Peter and beg him to come...Peter comes

Continue on telling one part of the story for every item. – Include M&Ms as the eyes for when Dorcas opens her eyes and looks at Peter.

When you are finished with the story let the students build their “outfit” on their cookies. Before everyone eats their cookie have a fashion show with them.

Supplies:

- Pretzel rods, dried fruit leather in a variety of colors (flavors),
- prepared icing, raisins, cinnamon dots, chocolate sprinkles, licorice laces,
- small bowls, paper towels

Preparation:

- Arrange ingredients in small bowls in the work area.
- Have the children wash their hands.

Instructions:

- Say: Dorcas made beautiful robes and clothes for those who needed them. We will make some clothes, like Dorcas did.
- Give each child a pretzel rod and a paper towel on which to work. The pretzel will become their “person.” Have them use the icing as glue for this project.
- Have the children spread a small bit of icing on the top of the pretzel and sprinkle chocolate sprinkles on the icing to become hair.
- Have them use icing to attach raisin eyes and a cinnamon-dot mouth.
- Allow the children to choose a color of dried fruit leather for clothing.
- Have them spread a small amount of icing on the body of the pretzel where the clothing will adhere.
- Have the children wrap the fruit leather around the pretzel and squeeze slightly to adhere the clothing. Tell them not to squeeze too tightly or the pretzel body will break.
- Have them use licorice laces and other small decorations to decorate the clothing.
- Unroll a length of paper towels on which to display the pretzel people.
- Have the children lay their people in a row.
- Allow the children to introduce their creations and name their people.
- The children may then eat their creations.

Idea contributed by a student of STAMP (Short-term Australian Missions Program). 2012