

SESSION 13

Unit 3: Praise Makers

Faith Focus: We worship God together in different ways.

Let every living thing praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)

GROW IN FAITH

We Worship God with Our Service—Acts 9:36-43

In today's story, there is a disciple in Joppa named Tabitha, known for her kindness to her community. She has a ministry sewing clothes for others. Tabitha becomes very ill, and we are told she dies. Other disciples in Joppa have heard of Peter's reputation as a healer, so they send two people to a nearby town to ask for his help.

When Peter arrives, it is very evident that Tabitha is a beloved member of her community. Many people have gathered and are mourning such a loss. Peter sends everyone out of the room. Then he kneels and prays. After praying, he turns and says, "Tabitha, get up." Tabitha opens her eyes, sees Peter, and gets up. Peter then presents Tabitha alive to the widows and all the other believers. The news of Peter healing Tabitha spreads quickly through Joppa. Through Peter's faith and the community's connection to one another, Tabitha has been healed. Sometimes healing is done in community. When we serve side by side to share kindness with others, God's love is seen and known.

- Continue learning about Peter's ministry.
- Engage in acts of kindness.

SESSION OUTLINE

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

Clothed in Kindness (Craft)

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Big Faith Video

Faith Response

FUN WITH FAITH

Sneaky Service (Service)

Lacing Card (Craft)

Serve Through Gifts (Craft)

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

SUPPLIES

crayons

scissors

CEB kids' Bible or Bible storybook

TV and DVD player or streaming device

sticky notes

pencils

yarn

hole punch

spray bottles

tie-dye

white bandannas or hats

smocks

tarp

COME TOGETHER

Prepare to Learn

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, Activity Sheets, Activity Stickers

Prepare Ahead: Set up your area with supplies and activity pages needed for today's session. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18) to use later in the session.

- As children arrive, invite them to join you in a circle.
- Give each child a copy of the "Winter Sticker Page" (Activity Sheets—p. 29) and their own set of Activity Stickers. Have children place the helping hands sticker on the Session 13 space.

SAY: Praise makers serve others. We can make a difference in our world when we serve those around us with hearts full of love.

Faith Focus—We Worship God Together in Different Ways

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20).

- Show children the Faith Focus Poster.

SAY: Our faith focus for today is "We worship God together in different ways."

ASK: Have you ever worked together with someone to help another person?

- Give children time and space to share their ideas.

SAY: God wants us to show love and care for all people. When we care for others, we give God praise.

Clothed in Kindness

Supplies: Activity Sheets, crayons, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Tear out "Clothed in Kindness" (Session 13 Activity Sheet) for each child.

SAY: Our Bible story for today is about a woman named Tabitha who made clothes for people to show kindness. Let's dress our dolls in clothes as we think about Tabitha's service to her community.

- Have each child color a paper doll's face, hair, and body on the activity sheet.
- Then have each child cut out the doll and clothes.
- Let each child dress his or her doll in the clothes.

ASK: What are some ways we can show kindness to others in our community?

FAITH CONNECTIONS

Read the Story

Supplies: CEB kids' Bible or CEB Bible storybook

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.
- Read about Tabitha (Acts 9:36–43) from a CEB kids' Bible or your favorite CEB Bible storybook.

ASK: What do you think the people were feeling in this story?

Big Faith Video

Supplies: Big Faith DVD, TV, DVD player or streaming device

- Watch the Session 13 video on the Big Faith DVD or via your Amplify Media subscription.
- Give children time to respond to the questions on the screen. Discuss the questions as partner pairs, in small groups, or all together.

ASK: What was your favorite part of the video?

Faith Response

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack, sticky notes, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16), Unit 3 Faith Focus Poster (Class Pack—pp. 5 & 20), and Unit 3 Faith Response Poster (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

- Invite children to wonder about the images on the posters.
- Encourage children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Tabitha was an important member of her church community. She served her community well. Peter knew her community in Joppa and cared about them. Peter was sad to hear Tabitha had died. Peter served the community by being present and praying with the community. God used Peter's servant heart to do great things.

ASK: What are some ways people have showed up for you? Do they come to your games or performances? Do they help you get where you need to go?

SAY: We can praise God when we show up for other people and support our community.

- Lay the Faith Response Poster on the floor or a table and invite the children to gather around it.
- Give each child a sticky note and crayons.

ASK: What do you see on our poster?

- Invite each child to write or draw on the note one way he or she can serve someone this week.
- Encourage the children to share and to place their notes in the Service section of the poster.

FUN WITH FAITH

Sneaky Service

Supplies: sticky notes, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Speak with leaders in the church and let them know the children will be hiding notes around the church. Find out if there are any special places you should guide the children away from.

SAY: In today's story, Peter showed up for his community. When we are present with people, we remind others how much they are loved. In this story, Tabitha was also a kind servant. She used her talents to help others by making clothing for people. Today, we can serve people by being sneaky servants.

- Give the children sticky notes and pencils.
- Encourage the children to write and draw positive messages on the notes.
- As a group, find places to hide the positive notes around the church to uplift people's spirits and serve the church community.

SAY: Thank you for sharing God's love with everyone today in our sneaky service!

Lacing Card

Supplies: crayons, scissors, yarn, hole punch

Prepare Ahead: Make copies of the reproducible "Lacing Card" (Leader Guide—p. 88).

SAY: Tabitha was a seamstress. She served her community by creating beautiful clothing. Let's practice our own sewing skills as we think about being praise makers.

- Give each child a copy of "Lacing Card."
- Have the children color the card and cut it out.
- Invite the children to use a hole punch to punch out the circles around the card and lace yarn through the holes.

Serve Through Gifts

Supplies: spray bottles, tie-dye, white bandannas or hats, smocks, tarp

Prepare Ahead: Prepare the tie-dye according to the directions. Put the tie-dye in spray bottles.

SAY: Tabitha made clothes for her community. When we use our gifts and talents for others, we serve our community. Let's make clothes for a friend like Tabitha did.

- Give each child a bandanna or hat, and have the children place the bandanna or hat on a tarp and spray the garment with different colors of dye.
- Allow the dye to dry and distribute the following week. Remind the children to give the bandanna or hat to a friend.

SHARE YOUR FAITH

Big Faith Idea—Faith in Community

Supplies: All-Ages Class Pack

Prepare Ahead: Display the Winter Big Faith Idea Poster (Class Pack—pp. 4 & 21). Photocopy the Unit 3 Family Faith Letter (Leader Guide—pp. 95–96) if needed.

- Show children the Big Faith Idea Poster.

SAY: We know that God listens to our prayers. God listens to our praise also. We have lots to be grateful for, so let's practice praising God together.

- Have the children gather in a circle.
- Have each child say (joyfully) something that she or he praises God for and is grateful for.
- Instruct the children to yell "Hooray!" after each person offers praise.
- After all the children have had a chance to offer praise, say the following prayer.

PRAY: Thank you for everything you give us, God. Help us to remember that all we have comes from you. Amen. *(Have the children repeat after you.)*

- Send the Family Faith Letter home with each child who hasn't received it.
- Send home any activities or items made during today's session other than the tie-dye items.

REPRODUCIBLE SESSION 13 Lacing Card

Color the lacing card and cut it out along the dashed line. Use a hole punch to punch out the circles around the edges of the card. Use yarn to lace through the holes around the card.

