Preschool–Grade 6

Peter Raises Dorcas

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I can be kind and help people.
Bible passage: Acts 9. Read Acts 9:36–43 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "this woman was full of good works" *Acts 9:36 (KJV)*. **Good works** means kind things we do.
You need: a Bible, a small blanket or sweater, a few stuffed animals, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 9. Sit the stuffed animals in a row.

1. Opening game: Keep Them Warm (5 minutes)

Say: "Brrr! Our animal friends are cold!" Kids take turns wrapping the blanket or sweater around one animal and saying, "Here is a coat for you!" Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a kind woman who made coats."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 9. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Dorcas loved Jesus (Acts 9:36). *(Hug yourself.)*
She did kind things for people (9:36). *(Give a high five.)*
She made coats (9:39). *(Pretend to put on a coat.)*
Say it with me: "Dorcas was kind!"
One day Dorcas got sick, and she died (9:37). *(Make a sad face.)*
Her friends cried. They showed the coats she made (9:39). *(Rub your eyes, then hold up a pretend coat.)*
Peter came. He kneeled down and prayed (9:39–40). *(Kneel and fold your hands.)*
Peter said, "Tabitha, arise" (9:40). Arise means get up! *(Stand up tall.)*
She opened her eyes and sat up (9:40)! *(Open your eyes wide.)*
Peter gave her his hand (9:41). *(Hold out your hand.)*
Many people believed in the Lord (9:42). *(Clap, clap, clap!)*
Say it with me: "God hears our prayers!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Dorcas make for people? *(Coats, Acts 9:39)*
2. What did Peter do? *(He kneeled down and prayed, 9:40)*
3. What happened to Dorcas? *(God made her alive again! She opened her eyes and sat up, 9:40)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The Bible says Dorcas 'was full of good works.' That means she did lots of kind things." Teach the motion: hold out both hands like you are giving a gift, then hug yourself. Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 9:36" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: A Coat for a Friend (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big coat with long sleeves. They color it with their favorite colors and stripes. Say: "Who could you be kind to this week?" Kids who finish early can play Keep Them Warm again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for hearing my prayers.
Help me be kind like Dorcas. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the sad part short and go straight to the happy part: Peter prayed, and God made Dorcas alive again. If a child asks about someone who died, answer gently: God is with us when we are sad. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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