



August's B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God wants us to help others.

August's Bible Verse

Children, you show love for others by truly helping them. 1 John 3:18, CEV

August's B.i.G. Theme

We Can Help Others

Lesson 12 ★ Dorcas

Today's Bible Story

Acts 9:36-42

Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Dorcas.
- ★ Children will discover that we can help others by sharing clothes.

Dorcas—also known as Tabitha—was a Christian woman who lived in the town of Joppa. (Joppa was on the Mediterranean Sea, about 35 miles northwest of Jerusalem.) Dorcas dedicated her life to caring for others, just as Jesus had taught. She was known throughout her community for making clothing for widows and others in need.

Sadly, Dorcas became ill and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial, but they also sent word to Peter, who was traveling in nearby Lydda. Peter came as quickly as he could. The women were grieving for Dorcas. They took Peter to the upstairs room where Dorcas' body had been placed. Then, weeping, they stood beside Peter and showed him all the beautiful clothes that Dorcas had made for others.

Peter asked everyone to wait for him outside the room. He knelt beside Dorcas' bed and prayed for her. Then he said, "Tabitha, get up." Dorcas opened her eyes. Peter helped her get out of bed. Then he called everyone back into the room so they could see that God had made Dorcas alive again. This was the first of such miracles performed by one of Jesus' disciples. Many people heard about this miracle and became believers in Jesus.

Today many Dorcas or Tabitha Societies exist around the world. Through these organizations people use the gifts God has given them—often the gift of sewing—to meet others' needs. As members of these organizations work to help others, they honor the memory of Dorcas, who dedicated her time, talents, and life to helping others, especially the poor.

The name Dorcas may give some children the giggles or prompt them to call each other silly names. If you think this may be a problem, substitute the name "Tabitha" instead. (Tabitha was the woman's Aramaic name; Dorcas was the Greek translation of her name. Both names mean "gazelle" in their respective languages.) Calling each other names is not acceptable, and children need to understand that words can hurt. The children's book *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes is an excellent book for celebrating unique names.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Dress-up Fun	✓
Pillowcase Tunics	
Match the Tunics	
Guest Seamstress	

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Transition Time	✓
Hear the Bible Story	✓
Paper Dolls	
Snack	✓

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Colorful Tunics		✓
Travel Time	✓	
Praise Time		
Closing Worship	✓	



TimeSaver
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: Travel Time

Mr. Z begins with a question: "How can you show God's love to others?"

Then the children remember the Bible verse.

Travel Time takes the children to Austin, Texas, to the Church Under the Bridge. Your kids can see that the people, not the building, make up the church. At the Church Under the Bridge, people who want to help have brought the church to where it is needed most. They provide music and a message, along with donated clothes and services that are needed by those without homes.



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Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child a tunic **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Ask:** Where did you get the clothes that you are wearing today? Did someone give them to you? Did someone take you shopping? Did someone make them for you?
- ★ **Say:** We will hear a Bible story today about a woman named Dorcas. Dorcas made and gave away beautiful clothes to people who needed them. Dorcas showed love for others when she helped them have clothes to wear.
- ★ **Ask:** Do you remember our Bible verse? It says: “Children, you show love for others by truly helping them” (1 John 3:18, CEV).
- ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

Live B.i.G. One way we help others is when we make sure that everyone has the clothing they need.

Dress-Up Fun

Supplies: dress-up clothing of all types, both present-day and Bible-times; optional: camera, full-length mirror

Prepare

- ★ Set up a dress-up area in the classroom.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Imagine how it would feel if you did not have enough clothes to wear. Today’s Bible story is about a woman named Dorcas who thought about that! She made sure everyone had clothing to wear.
- ★ Invite the children to try on the clothes. Discuss the similarities and differences in the various outfits.
- ★ Just for fun, you may want to take pictures of the children in their costumes.

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Invite them in . . .

Pillowcase Tunics

Supplies: old pillowcases (clean), scissors, markers or fabric crayons

Prepare

- ★ For each child, cut two arm holes on opposite sides of a pillowcase and one hole at the top.

- Do**
- ★ Let the children decorate the pillowcases with markers or fabric crayons.
 - ★ Follow the directions on the package if you decide to use fabric crayons.
 - ★ Help the children slide the pillowcases over their heads.
 - ★ **Say:** Dorcas made clothes for people who did not have what they needed. The clothes she made in Bible times were called tunics, and they looked similar to these you have made today.

Live B.i.G. Dorcas made clothes to help others. God wants us to help others too.

Match the Tunics

Supplies: Leader—page 127, crayons

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy “Match the Tunics” (**Leader—page 127**) for each child.

- Do**
- ★ Give each child “Match the Tunics” (**Leader—page 127**).
 - ★ Have the children find the matching tunics.
 - ★ **Say:** Dorcas helped others by making clothes for them. We can learn from Dorcas. God wants us to help others too.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

Guest Seamstress

Prepare

- ★ Invite a guest seamstress (or tailor) to demonstrate the steps it takes to sew an article of clothing. Invite this person to bring some clothing she or he has made or pictures of persons wearing clothing she or he has sewn.

- Do**
- ★ Welcome and introduce the guest seamstress. Invite the seamstress to explain and demonstrate how to sew clothing for others. Invite the children to ask questions.
 - ★ **Say:** Sewing machines had not been invented yet during the time of Dorcas. She had to sew everything by hand! Dorcas helped others by making clothes for them.

Live B.i.G. One way we can help others is by sharing clothes with people who need them.



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Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Transition Time

- Do**
- ★ Have the children stand in a circle.
 - ★ **Say:** Let's sing a happy song and clap our hands.
 - ★ Teach the song "Oh, You Show Love for Others" to the tune of "The More We Get Together."
 - ★ Have the children clap their hands as you sing.

Oh, You Show Love for Others

Oh, you show love for others,
for others, for others.

Oh, you show love for others
by truly helping them.

By helping, by helping,
by helping, by helping.

Oh, you show love for others
by truly helping them.

- ★ Sing the song again and have the children stomp their feet.
- ★ Have the children sit down to hear the Bible story.

Live B.i.G. We believe that God wants us to help others.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, Leader—page 126

- Do**
- ★ Hold the Bible open to Acts 9.
 - ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is from the Book of Acts.
 - ★ **Say:** I want you to help me tell the story. First, I want you to pretend to sew a tunic or a robe.
 - ★ Show the children how to pretend to sew with a needle and thread, pushing the needle in and out of the cloth.
 - ★ **Say:** Very good. Now when I point to you, I want you to sing this song with me and pretend to sew.
 - ★ Sing the following song with the children. The tune is "The Wheels on the Bus."

The needle and thread go in and out,
in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out,
as Dorcas sews a robe.

- ★ Tell the Bible story “Dorcas” (**Leader—page 126**) to the children. Have the children sing the song with you whenever it appears.
- ★ **Say:** God used Dorcas to show others the love and power of God.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

Paper Dolls

Supplies: Kids’ Book, Kids’ Book—page C, crayons, markers, stickers, fabric scraps cut into small pieces, gluesticks

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the paper dolls and clothing for each child (**Kids’ Book and Kids’ Book—page C**).

Do ★ Give each child a set of paper doll figures and the clothing (**Kids’ Book and Kids’ Book—page C**).

- ★ **Say:** Dorcas liked to sew. She used the clothing she made to help others. Let’s pretend that we are Dorcas and make clothing for these two Bible-times children.
- ★ Invite the children to decorate the clothing for the paper dolls with the art supplies provided.
- ★ Have the children glue the decorated tunics onto the paper dolls.

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Snack

Supplies: cookies, basket, napkins, cups, water

Prepare

- ★ Make arrangements for the children to take cookies to another class—perhaps an older adult class.

Check for allergies before serving this snack.



- Do** ★ Have the children wash their hands.
- ★ Have the children help you prepare a basket of cookies to share with another class.
 - ★ Let each child choose a cookie for himself or herself and then a second cookie to place in the basket.
 - ★ **Say:** We will each eat one cookie for our snack and then we will share the rest of the cookies with some friends.
 - ★ Say a thank-you prayer. Then let the children eat their snack-time cookies.
 - ★ Let the children take turns carrying the basket of cookies to the class you will be sharing with.
 - ★ Take the children back to their own classroom.
 - ★ **Say:** We shared what we had with our friends. Dorcas did the same thing! She shared the things she had with people in need. You are never too young or too small to help others for God.

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Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Colorful Tunics

Supplies: Leader—page 142, ric rac, scissors, crayons, glue, tape

Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "Bible-Times Tunic" (**Leader—page 142**) for each child.
- ★ Cut ric rac into short pieces.

Do ★ Give each child a "Bible-Times Tunic" (**Leader—page 142**).

- ★ **Say:** Dorcas made clothes to help others.
- ★ Have the children decorate the tunics with crayons.
- ★ Then let the children glue the ric rac pieces on the tunics.
- ★ **Say:** Let's think about things we can do to help others. If I say something that you think is a way we can help others, hold up your tunic. If I say something that is not a way to help others, keep your tunic down.
- ★ **Say:** We can share food with people who are hungry. (*Hold up picture.*)
We can bring cans of food to our church's food pantry. (*Hold up picture.*)
We can bring money to help people in need buy food and clothing. (*Hold up picture.*)
We can say, "No! I won't help!" (*Keep picture down.*)
We can bring the clothes we have outgrown to give to people who need clothes. (*Hold up picture.*)
We can smile. (*Hold up picture.*)
- ★ **Say:** Good job. You know how to help others.
- ★ **Say:** (*Child's name*) is a helper for God. (*Child's name*), let's put your tunic in our worship area.
- ★ Help the child you named tape his or her tunic picture in your worship area. Then continue until each child has a turn.

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Into Life

Travel Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ **Say:** Travel Time today is taking us to an unusual church—a church that meets under a bridge! Let's see what this church is all about.
- ★ Watch Travel Time **(DVD)**.
 - ★ **Ask:** What kind of things were happening at this church? Why did they meet under a bridge? How did people at the church help people who were homeless?
 - ★ **Say:** God wants us to help people who are without or who are poor. When we give clothing and food and love to others, we are showing God's love.

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Praise Time

Supplies: Leader—page 6, DVD, DVD player, television, rubber gloves or work gloves

- Do** ★ Give each child a pair of work gloves or rubber gloves to wear.
- ★ **Say:** Why would people wear gloves like these? That's right—to work!
 - ★ **Say:** I can see that you have helping hands. That means we are ready to sing our Praise Time song!
 - ★ Play "I've Got Helping Hands" **(DVD)**. Encourage the children to sing and clap with the music.

Live B.i.G. Our love for others is shown by our helpful actions.

Closing Worship

Supplies: Stickers, Kids' Book, Leader—page 126

Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook **(Kids' Book)** for each child (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "Dorcas" **(Leader—page 126)** for each child to take home.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Boys and girls, you have been good helpers today! I have noticed each of you doing kind things. You have helped each other and you have helped me.
Thank you!
- ★ Go around the circle, mentioning each child by name and stating something helpful the child has done.
 - ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for each boy and girl in this class and for the way they help others. Amen.
 - ★ Place a "Show Love by Helping Others" worship badge **(Stickers)** on each child.
 - ★ Give each child a storybook **(Kids' Book)** and a copy of "Dorcas" **(Leader—page 126)** to take home.

Live B.i.G. God wants us to help others.

Sing the refrain in bold to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."

Dorcas was a follower of Jesus. She liked to sew, and she liked to help others. So she made clothes for people who needed them.

The needle and thread go in and out, in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out, as Dorcas sews a robe.

One day Dorcas became sick and died. Everyone was sad. "Let's ask Peter to come," said one of Dorcas's friends. "Maybe he can help."

The needle and thread go in and out, in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out, as Dorcas sews a robe.

Peter came right away. The friends took Peter to Dorcas. They told him how sad they were. Then they showed him all the robes and clothes Dorcas had made.

The needle and thread go in and out, in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out, as Dorcas sews a robe.

Peter knelt down beside Dorcas and prayed. He turned to her and said, "Dorcas, get up!" She opened her eyes, and he helped her get up.

The needle and thread go in and out, in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out, as Dorcas sews a robe.

Peter showed everyone that Dorcas was alive. God had made her well! When people heard that Dorcas was alive and back sewing clothes for the poor, many people became followers of Jesus.

The needle and thread go in and out, in and out, in and out.

The needle and thread go in and out, as Dorcas sews a robe.

based on Acts 9:36-42

Match the Tunics

