

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

## **Peter and Tabitha – Acts 9:36-43**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

#### **Faith Word: LOVE**

Today's story is about a special disciple named Tabitha. Her Greek name was Dorcas. She was known for her good works and compassion. She helped those in need in her community and made clothing for them.

Unfortunately, Tabitha became very ill and died. When the other disciples heard about Tabitha's death, they sent for Peter. Peter rushed right over and went upstairs to where Tabitha's body lay. Many community members were there, crying and showing tunics and other clothing Tabitha had made. The presence of the community showed how dedicated Tabitha was to loving and serving others.

Peter sent everyone out of the room and knelt to pray. Then he turned to Tabitha's body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes and sat up, and Peter helped her up out of the bed. Then he called all the widows and holy people and presented Tabitha to them alive. News spread throughout the area, and many put their faith in the Lord because of it. Acts of love are shown in the story through Tabitha's connection and concern for the community, and their love and support in return.

Children might wonder how Tabitha was healed. How could someone come back to life? It is OK to let children wonder about this. Help the children also focus on the love and support of the community. Although we cannot always heal everyone, we can love and support one another even in hard times.

### **Spiritual Practice for Adults**

Who in your community needs love and support? Who do you rely on in hard times? This week, write down the names of those you love. Choose one name each day to lift up to God using the practice of Loving Kindness. Look up "Loving Kindness Meditation" online, and use this practice to hold those you love in your thoughts and prayers.

# Come Together

## Welcome to Wonder

**Supplies:** *Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23, 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 10); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, white cloth, and items such as a candle, cutout of connected people, cloth or clothes); Wonder Box; shirt; crayons; markers; glue sticks or double-sided tape; jumbo craft sticks (one for each child)*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the shirt inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 10). Provide craft sticks and glue sticks or double-sided tape. Help the children as needed with the craft activity.

**Tip:** *Display the Wonder Wall poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23), or use the instructions on the back of the poster to create your own.*

## Sing and Celebrate

**Supplies:** *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “A Strong Wind” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

**Supplies:** *CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, 19; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (pp. 8 & 25) and the Wonder Story Mat Figures (p. 19). You will use Romans 12:10a today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.
- Read from the Bible today's story in Acts 9:36-43.
- Let a child move or place Romans 12:10a on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 10 video on the DVD.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies:* Class Pack—insert, pp. 11 & 22; Wonder Box (containing a shirt)

*Prepare Ahead:* Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 22), and locate the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert).

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

**SAY:** Today's faith word is *Love*: a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

- Wonder together:
  - Who was loving in the Bible story?
  - How did Tabitha show love? Peter? the community?
  - How do you show love to your community?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the shirt.

**SAY:** It is important to show love to our community.

## Experience Wonder

### From All Perspectives (Drama)

*Supplies:* Leader Guide—p. 66

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "From All Perspectives" (Leader Guide) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "From All Perspectives."
- Divide the parts of the story among the children.
- Have the children act out the drama.

**WONDER:** Who was most important in the story?

## Sharing Shirts (Craft)

*Supplies: plain T-shirts of various sizes (one for each child), fabric paint, cardboard, scissors, smocks*

*Prepare Ahead: Cut cardboard rectangles that will fit inside the T-shirts. Place one of these cardboard pieces inside each T-shirt.*

- Give each child a T-shirt and a smock. Ask the children to put on their smock.

**WONDER:** Why do you think Tabitha made clothing for her community?

- Invite the children to decorate their T-shirts. Encourage them to write or draw something on their T-shirt that they want to say to their community.

**WONDER:** What did you write or draw on your T-shirt? Why?

- Let the T-shirts dry.

## Find the Fabric (Game)

*Supplies: different types of fabric (such as cotton, silk, wool, denim), brown paper bags*

*Prepare Ahead: Place one type of fabric in each paper bag.*

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor.

**SAY:** Tabitha made clothing for her community. We are going to guess what types of fabrics are inside these bags.

- Pass the first bag to a child next to you. Have the child close his or her eyes, feel the fabric, and guess what type of fabric is in the bag. Pass the bag all the way around the circle. Each child gets one guess.
- After the bag has gone all the way around the circle, reveal the type of fabric.
- Pass each bag of fabric around one at a time.

**SAY:** There are many types of fabrics to use to make clothing. There are also many ways we can help our community.

*Tip: If guessing the fabrics seems too difficult, write a list of the types of fabric to help the children.*

## Peaceful Place

*Supplies:* suggested books: “My Name Is Sangoel” by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed and “How to Heal a Broken Wing” by Bob Graham; quiet items: fabrics, band-aids (to write healing messages on), permanent markers

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

*Tip:* You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

## Go in Peace

### Spiritual Practice—Exploring Love Through Service

*Supplies:* Leader Guide—p. 89, “Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book” (optional), strips of paper, markers, basket

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet. Write each child’s name on a separate strip of paper, fold the paper strips, and put them in a basket.

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

**SAY:** In the Bible story, the people supported one another and prayed together. It is special and important to pray for our friends.

- Pass the basket of names around the circle. Have each child draw a name (other than their own). Invite the children to pray throughout the week for the friend whose name they drew.
- Send “Celebration Chart” home with children who did not receive it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the “Celebration Chart” and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

# CELEBRATE WONDER™ From All Perspectives

**NARRATOR:** In a small town there was a woman named Tabitha, who cared for those in need.

**TABITHA:** Hello! I'm Tabitha, and I love my community very much!

**NARRATOR:** One day, Tabitha got sick and died.

**COMMUNITY:** Oh, no! Our friend Tabitha needs help. Where is Peter?

**NARRATOR:** The disciple Peter was in a nearby town, and the community thought he could help.

**NARRATOR:** When Peter arrived, he was led to Tabitha.

**COMMUNITY:** (*crying*) Look at how much she did for us. She is an important part of our community.

**PETER:** Everyone must leave the room while I pray.

**NARRATOR:** Peter prayed to God, and soon Tabitha sat up.

**TABITHA:** (*opening her eyes*) I have been healed!

**NARRATOR:** Peter invited the community to come back into the room.

**COMMUNITY:** Tabitha is healed! Thank you, Peter! We will tell everyone what you have done and about your faith in God.

