

WEEK FOUR

**TABITHA – SHOWING LOVE FOR GOD
BY DOING GOOD FOR OTHERS**

BIG IDEA

Sometimes God answers others'

PRAYERS FOR US WITH A MIRACLE

PREP

- Wrapped lollies. (a few per person.)
- Elastic, hair tie or rubber band.
- A needle.
- Write the names of three different pieces of clothing on a note for each child (see scavenger hunt on the right).

WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- Put everything in the Faith box before you start.



FAMILY TALK TIME

- Ask the children “Who loves you and looks after you?”
- Who looks after our next door neighbours?
- Are there people who are not cared for like us?

INTRO

When we follow Jesus he has many adventures and challenges for us. The early Christians knew persecution and suffering but they also knew that sometimes God did miracles.

Usually God just wants us to keep doing things every day for people around us. That is what followers of Jesus do. We're going to talk about someone today who was known by everyone because of the good things she did for others. And then a truly amazing miracle happened to her.

OUT OF THE BOX

Scavenger hunt

- Give each child a note with **three things they have to go and find.**
 1. A jumper or blanket. (Hand knitted if possible.)
 2. A coat of some sort
 3. A hat or cap.
- When everyone comes back with their clothes, they must put them in a pile in the middle of the room.

GAME

Tabitha's Clothes

- Choose a child whose birthday is nearest today to go first. Children take turns running to the pile of clothes, putting on the three items and running back.
- Time each child and write their times up somewhere.
- They can stay dressed in the clothes while you read.



“DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD.”

- DESMOND TUTU -

READ

Put the sweets in middle of table. We are going to hear a story about a woman called Tabitha. In Greek her name was Dorcas, and both these names mean “antelope” or “gazelle” – a very graceful animal.

Listen hard: at the end of the story everyone who can tell one thing about Tabitha will get a sweet (each must say something different).

“ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.”

Acts 9:36-42 (NIV)



WEEK FOUR

FAMILY TALK TIME

• Who can tell me something about Tabitha from the story?

Some ideas – children may come up with some of these or more:

- She lived in a seaside town called Joppa, about 50 kms from Jerusalem.
- She was a disciple of Jesus in the early church.
- She was well known for her kindness and the work she did for the poor.
- She made clothes for many people.
- She looked after those people she knew had no one else to look after them.
- The people really loved her, so when she died they were very sad and called for Peter.
- She was raised from the dead!

The Bible tells us that Tabitha was continuously or always doing good. It was as if she was bursting with goodness. She didn't just talk about doing good things, she did them. Not on and off, but always. Not just when she felt like it. Sometimes being that sort of person can make us feel as though we are being stretched.

OUT OF THE BOX

- Take the piece of elastic – Let everyone take a turn to see how far they can stretch it.

Sometimes we need to be stretched like the elastic to do good things for others. It means we need to make an extra effort, no matter how small the task. Think about how God might want you to stretch out to meet someone's need.

Have a look at the clothes you are wearing – look at a seam and try counting the stitches... Imagine how many stitches that would be in the whole garment!

Tabitha had sewed many clothes for people in need. This was before sewing machines – so it would be slow and hard work sewing clothes by hand.

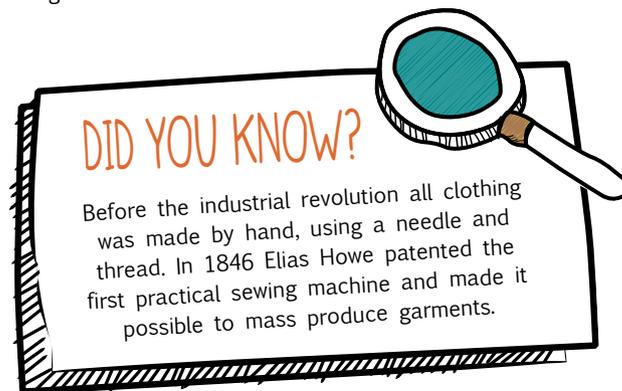
We can help people in lots of different ways. Imagine people in winter with not enough warm clothes being given a warm coat to wear.

A needle is a very small thing, but Tabitha used it to serve God and the people around her. **God gave Tabitha a special talent to sew clothes.**

Questions

- Do you know anyone who has that special talent?
- What special talents and interests has God given you?
- How might those talents point others to Jesus?

Wow! What an amazing miracle, for someone who had spent her life simply getting on with the job of using her talents for God – she was brought back from the dead!!! The people who loved her must have been sooo delighted with that incredible miracle.



Sometimes we only expect big miracles to happen to those who do really big and amazing things for God.

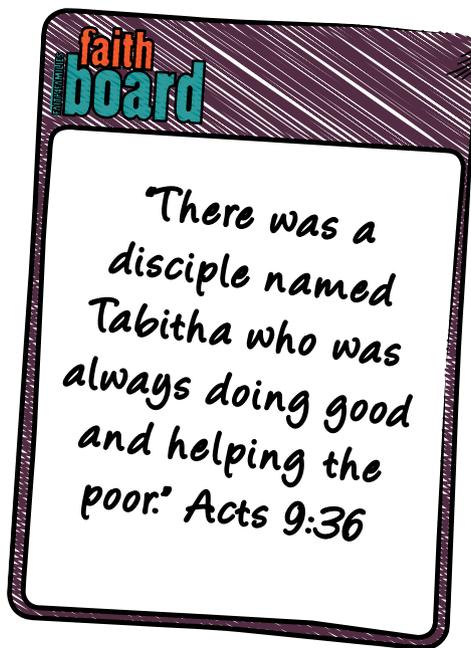
But all God's disciples are precious to him and he listens when their friends pray for them.

PRAY

- Take the needle out of the faith box and pass it around.
- As each person holds the needle, let them share another small thing that helps make a difference to people or a small thing they could do that is good and kind. (Remember to put the needle away safely afterwards.)
- Decide on someone you could help this week.
- Take turns praying for this person/family and for an opportunity to bless them in some way.

LIVE

This week make time to go through your clothes and share what you no longer need with others by taking them to your local Op Shop.



OTHER IDEAS

- Check out Missions without Borders – making warm blankets to give to cold children in Eastern European orphanages – their website is www.mwb.org.nz
- Make paper dolls and make clothes by gluing scraps of fabric on to card clothes shapes. (You can get packets of card people shapes from The Warehouse if you wish) Once all the paper dolls are “dressed,” talk about Tabitha’s kindness to the poor.
- PLAY ‘Are you sleeping?’ One child hides under a blanket as if asleep. All other children creep around whispering “Are you sleeping, are you sleeping – you can’t catch us, you can’t catch us!” The child under the blanket can choose when to jump out from under the blanket and catch someone. The caught child then becomes the sleeper.

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

