

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Twelve - Restoration of Life

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The end of chapter 9 in Acts shows a glimpse or preview of new creation breaking into the world. It is the power of Jesus, through his Spirit at work within the Church. Peter is mentioned a lot, but he himself says Jesus is the one doing the work. Make sure the message that comes across is putting Jesus on display, not anyone else.

- **Big Idea:** Jesus is bringing new life through the Church

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Freeze Tag**

Play a game of freeze tag. Choose 2 to be 'it', going around freezing other players by tagging and saying 'freeze'. Those who aren't 'it' can tag their frozen teammates and say 'unfreeze' to get them moving again.

Today's story will talk about Jesus working through his followers to bring life and movement to others.

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 9:31-43

Jesus had revealed himself to Saul. So instead of persecuting the Church he joined them and started sharing the truth about Jesus to everyone he could: that Jesus *“really is the Son of God”*.

Without his persecution, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, the community increased in numbers.

As Peter was traveling from place to place, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to him, *“Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed,”* and immediately he got up. So all who lived in Lydda and Sharon (the town nearby) saw him and turned to the Lord.

In another town called Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha. She was always doing good works and acts of charity for those in need. About the time Peter was in Lydda, Tabitha became sick and died. Her loved ones prepared her body and placed her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him who urged him, *“Don’t delay in coming with us.”*

Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. And all the widows approached him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothes that Tabitha had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down, prayed, and turning toward the body said, *“Tabitha, get up.”*

She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. He called the saints and widows and presented her alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed for some time in Joppa with a man named Simon, a leather tanner.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Who had stopped Saul from persecuting the Church? Who revealed himself to Saul and changed his heart?
- Who allowed the Church to continue to grow in peace?
- Who healed Aeneas from being paralyzed?
[Remember — Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you”]
- Who brought Tabitha back to life? Are you seeing the theme here?
- Jesus’ power was doing all of this, but he chose to allow Peter to be part of it and join in the work! How do you think Jesus is asking you to partner with him?

Breakout Time

• **Prayer:**

God, please keep bringing healing to the world. Help us to join you in the work you do to bless others, in the power of Jesus. Amen.

• **Craft:**

- Use the coloring sheet attached
- OR using two paper plates (or construction paper works too), create a bed by cutting one in half and stapling it to the other. The last page has a cutout person you can slide in between the two papers like bedsheets. Talk about how both Aeneas and Tabitha were healed and able to get up out of bed by Jesus’ power.

BLESS Activity

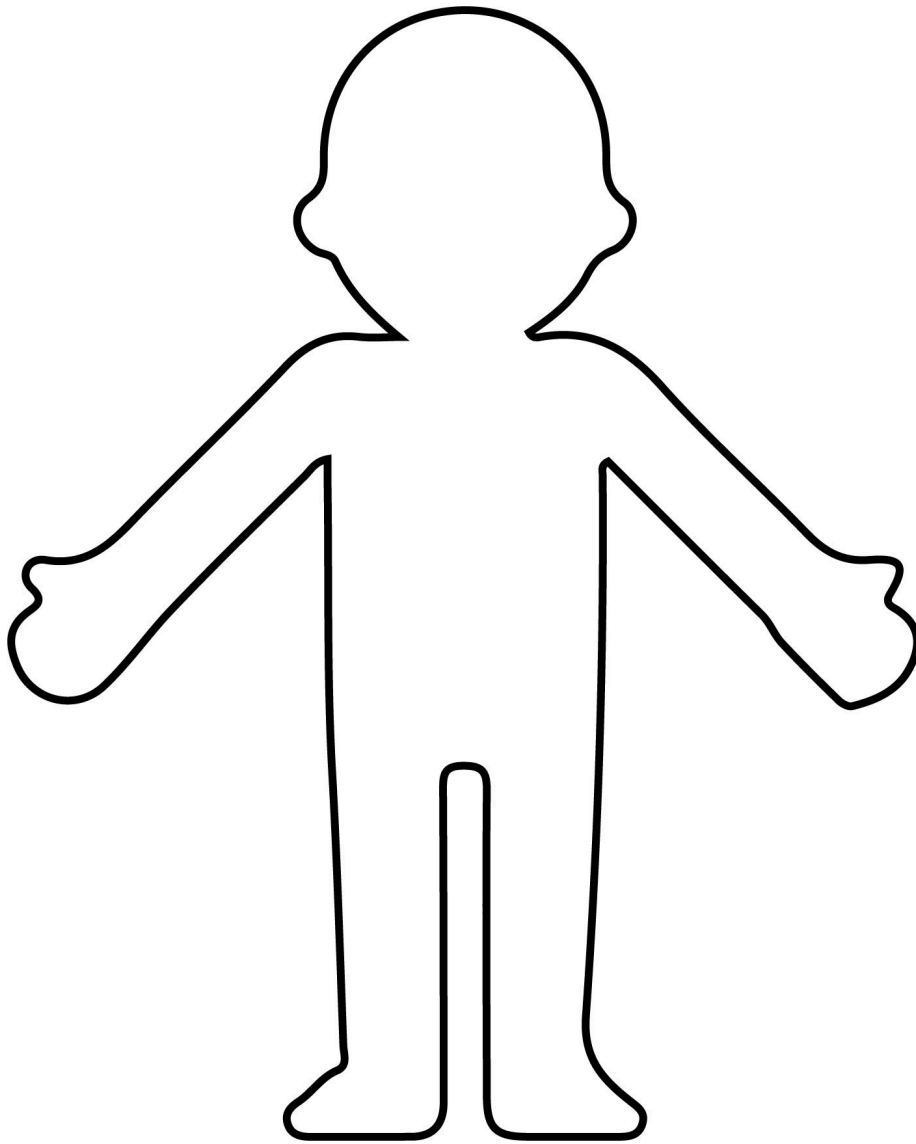
For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God’s Story.

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm.

Jesus was sending his people around to bring blessing to the world, as a preview of the kingdom to come. How can you be a blessing to others this week to show what God’s kingdom is like?





**The pictures to the right are for reference for the teacher.*

Color and cut out the figure above to slide between the paper plates (or construction paper) after they were glued or stapled together.