

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

Peter and Tabitha – Acts 9:36-43

Prepare to Wonder

Today's Bible story is about a woman who was widowed named Tabitha. Tabitha had a good reputation in the town of Joppa, where she lived. Tabitha sewed clothes for women who were too poor to pay for material to make clothes for themselves. Tabitha made beautiful clothing for the poorest women in the town.

In the Bible, women did not have the rights that women do today. Women were not allowed to own property. So, if her husband died, a woman would be at the mercy of others to be able to live. Tabitha somehow had the resources to sew for others less fortunate.

Tabitha was loved in her town and when she became sick and died, her friends were overcome with grief. Tabitha had cared for them and loved them, and was now gone. They may not have had anyone else to turn to. Peter was in a town close to Joppa, so the friends of Tabitha decided to send for him. They hoped Peter might be able to do something for Tabitha. When Peter arrived, he heard about all the acts of service Tabitha had done in the town.

Peter asked the people to leave the room, and he knelt down and prayed. Peter then commanded Tabitha to get up, and she opened her eyes and sat up. Her friends were astounded and overjoyed at the same time.

Tabitha was well-loved in her town because she lived a life of love through service to others. Some might say all she did was sew clothes, but the people who received those clothes knew they were sewn with love. We, too, can live a life of love through service.

Children might wonder how Tabitha was healed. How could someone come back to life? It is okay 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

Do you know someone who is always doing something for others—someone who gives his or her time and love to help those in need, but doesn't want or receive recognition? Send a thank-you card to that person for selflessly helping others.

Welcome to Wonder

Prepare Ahead: As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table, place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

Tip: Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together near your Wonder Table.

WONDER together

- Who do you know that is always doing things for other people?
- What does this person do to help others?

CONTINUE to wonder

- What kinds of things have you made for others to show them that you love them?
- Why is it important to help those in need?

PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for showing us that you love us. Amen.

SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "A Strong Wind" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "A Strong Wind."
- Sing and celebrate.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: CEB Bible, Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack), optional: Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

READ the Bible story

- Read the Bible story: Acts 9:36-43.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

WATCH the Bible story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on www.amplifymedia.com.

SHARE the Faith Word

- Faith Word: LOVE—Love means a closeness and connection we feel with God and others.

WONDER: Who was most important in the story?

Clothes of Love (Craft)

Supplies: card stock, different colored or patterned paper, glue, child-friendly scissors, crayons or markers

- Give each person a piece of card stock.
- SAY:** Tabitha made beautiful clothes for her friends in need.
- Everyone will draw a person on the card stock.
 - Glue the colored or patterned paper to make clothes on the card stock person.

WONDER: How can you help someone who needs clothes, if you can't sew?

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Love Through Service

- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice:

SAY: There are so many people doing things for others out of love. Name someone you know who does things for others, and we will pray for them. I will start. I pray for teachers. Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: Jesus, thank you for teachers.

- Repeat this prayer for each person mentioned. After everyone has mentioned someone, end the prayer with, "Amen."
- Find a time to read together the *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*.