

Bible Point - Jesus helps us serve him.

# **Bible Verse**

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10).

# **Growing Closer to Jesus**

Children will ■ understand that Jesus helps us find ways to serve him,

- hear that Peter served in Jesus' name and with his power,
- learn to serve Jesus by helping Pockets feel better, and
- share healthy snacks.

# **Teacher Enrichment**

### Bible Basis Peter helps Tabitha.



Tabitha, a servant-hearted follower of Jesus, had died. As the washing described in Acts 9:37 was part of the Jewish preparation for burial, there could be no doubt that she was really dead. It was not customary, however, that she be taken to an upper room. More often a person would have been buried soon after death, usually on the same day. Apparently the Christians were waiting for Peter to arrive.

When Peter entered the room, he sent away the widows and the mourners, just as Jesus had done when he raised Jairus' daughter in Mark 5. Peter wanted some time to be alone with the Lord. Peter knew what the Christians in Joppa wanted him to do, and he no doubt expressed that to God. But he undoubtedly wanted to find out what the Lord wanted to do. From Peter's actions, it is apparent that the Lord gave Peter the direction he needed. Peter then used the same wording that Jesus had used in raising Jairus' daughter, with the exception of one letter: He said, "Tabitha arise" instead of "Talitha arise."

How did Tabitha hear Peter's command if she was dead? As Peter spoke, the Lord returned her to life. The Lord made Tabitha hear and arise. She was instantaneously and completely restored. The disease was gone, and any decay that had taken place since death was wiped away. Imagine the joyous scene when Peter presented Tabitha alive to the crowd!

The result of this miracle, as with other miracles the apostles performed, was that many believed in the Lord. Miracles testify to God's power and encourage people in their faith.

# Prayer

- Read John 20:31.
- When has God worked in amazing ways in your life?
- Pray: Lord, help me to remember that you are our mighty God, worker of miracles. Please keep my faith strong, especially when I face...

## **Before the Lesson**

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction as you teach the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome!—Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Cross Name Tags" (p. 14), markers, safety pins or tape	
Let's Get Started	<b>Option 1: Serve the Sick</b> —Be pretend doctors and nurses in their classroom "hospital."	Blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, dolls, toy doctor kit or hospital props	
Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 2: Care Cards</b> —Create cheerful get-well cards for people who are sick.	Tape, scissors, markers, construction paper	
	<b>Option 3: Healthy Hearts—</b> Make heart-shaped sandwiches.	Bread, cheese, lunch meat, heart- shaped cookie cutters, paper plate, plastic tablecloth	
	<b>Pick Up Our Toys</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	••••
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage—Play an unusual game of Tag.	Round stickers	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer</b> <b>Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story—Participate in a Bible story from Acts 9:36-42, play a game, and learn a new Bible verse song.	Bible, stickers from "Setting the Stage," CD player, 2 old bedsheets, scissors	ROOK
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Act out a fun action rhyme to review the Bible story.	Bible	
Closing	<b>Kerchoo, Kangaroo!</b> —Serve by helping Pockets feel better.	Facial tissue, small blanket, tape	
	Hearts Share—Have a healthy picnic, and pray.	Tablecloth and sandwiches from Option 3 (or other snack), napkins	~

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

# Welcome Time

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**SUPPLIES:** "Cross Name Tags" (p. 14), markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "Who did you serve last week?" or "What's a way that Jesus helped you serve him?"
- Say: Today we're going to learn that ► Jesus helps us serve him.
- Hand out the cross name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If any of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

# Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among children to offer help as needed and to direct their conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What can you do to help someone in your family who gets sick?" and "How do you feel when someone you love gets sick?"

## Option 1: Serve the Sick

**SUPPLIES:** blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, dolls, toy doctor kit or hospital props such as spoons, flowers, and bandages

Create a pretend hospital in one corner of the room. Provide small blankets and pillows for stuffed-animal or doll patients. Set out a toy doctor kit or other props such as spoons and bowls to feed the "patients," a stethoscope, bandages, and flowers to cheer them up. As children care for their patients, ask questions such as "Why do we want to help people feel better?" and "When's a time someone helped you feel better?"

Encourage children to take turns being the doctors and nurses. Point out that boys and girls can be both doctors and nurses. Explain that  $\blacktriangleright$  *Jesus helps us serve him* and that today's Bible story is about a time Jesus helped Peter make someone better.





It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.



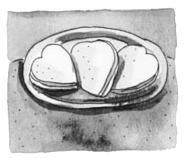
You may want to ask members of your congregation who work in health-related fields to visit and demonstrate real stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs.











# Option 2: Care Cards

#### SUPPLIES: construction paper, scissors, tape, markers

Before class, cut sheets of construction paper in half for children.

Set out scissors, tape, and markers. Hand out construction paper, and have children fold their papers in half. Invite them to each create a colorful card to give to someone who's sick. Encourage children to use unusual decorating techniques such as curling strips of paper around a marker, making fringe, and accordion-folding paper decorations to tape to their cards.

As children work, make comments such as "It's so nice to make someone feel better when they're sick" and "You can save this card and use it to cheer up someone who's sick." Tell children that today they'll hear a story about how Peter helped a woman who had been very sick and died. Remind children that *Jesus helps us serve him* and that we can serve by helping people when they're ill.

## Option 3: Healthy Hearts

**SUPPLIES:** plastic tablecloth, bread, paper plate, cheese, lunchmeat (sliced ham, turkey or bologna), heart-shaped cookie cutters

Cover a table with a clean plastic tablecloth. Set out bread, a paper plate, cheese and lunchmeat slices, and heart-shaped cookie cutters. Invite children to make heart-shaped sandwiches. Have a few children be the Cutters and cut heart-shaped pieces of bread, meat, and cheese. Other children can be the Stackers and place one slice each of cheese and meat on the bread. The Toppers may place tops on the sandwiches and then place them on the paper plate.

As children make their snacks, tell them that sometimes serving a delicious snack helps sick people feel better. Tell children that in today's Bible story, Peter serves Jesus by helping a woman who was sick. Remind children that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him and that we can serve by helping sick people.

Be sure you've made a sandwich for each child. Set them aside until later, preferably in a refrigerator.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

# 🖬 Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the *CD* to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the class, sing the song without the *CD*, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the *CD*, vary the names you use each week.





We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys. We will pick up our toys, And put them all away. There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys. There's [name] picking up toys, Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

# **Bible Story Time** Setting the Stage

#### SUPPLIES: round stickers

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask children to help you clear an area in the center of the room. Hand each child four round stickers.

Say: We're going to play a fun game called Chickenpox Spots. When I clap my hands, you'll have 30 seconds to tag people with spots. You must walk and put spots on four different people's arms. Try to keep from catching the chickenpox spots yourself!

After 30 seconds, clap to get children's attention. When children's hands are raised and they're looking at you, have them sit in a circle.

Ask: • Who can tell about a time they were sick or had the chickenpox? Allow children time to share their experiences.

• Who took care of you, and what did they do? (My mom and dad read to me; my friends came to visit; Grandma made me soup.)

Say: It's no fun to feel sick. Today we'll hear a story about a woman who was so sick that she died. But Jesus gave Peter the power to make her well again. ► Jesus helps us serve him just as he helped Peter. Keep your chickenpox spots on because you'll need them to help tell our Bible story later.

## Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch strips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and stamp the *serving stamp* inside one of the surprise cards.

Place a marker at **Acts 9:36-42** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, hand out the folded surprise cards.



Round stickers from the officesupply section of most stores work well for this game; however, any stickers will do.





You'll probably be able to reuse most of the surprise cards. Each week, throw out any torn or crumpled cards, and make enough new ones for each child to have one. Keep a list of who's had the stamped surprise card to ensure that everyone gets a turn to be the Bible person.



Now it's time to read God's book, Read God's book, read God's book. Now it's time to read God's book. Let's hear a Bible story. (Repeat 3x.)

After the song, say: You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the hand and heart stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.

Identify the Bible person. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place, and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him.

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn that  $\blacktriangleright$  <u>Jesus</u> <u>helps us serve him.</u> I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "Jesus, please help me serve you."

Pass around the basket or box. After you've collected all the surprise cards, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for** the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us <u>serve him.</u> In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

# Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, 2 old bedsheets, scissors, stickers from "Setting the Stage"



Before class, cut head-shaped holes near the top of two old, clean bedsheets. Bring out the *Bible Big Book: How Peter Served Jesus.* Say: **Before we hear our Bible story, let's play a story-**

review game. I'll ask a story question. If you know the answer, stand on one leg. Then I'll choose someone to answer. Review with the following questions.

• Why did Peter and John go to the Temple? (To pray; to talk about Jesus.)

• Why was the man at the gate begging for money? (He couldn't walk; he couldn't work and needed money.)

- How did Peter help the man? (He healed him; he made him walk again.)
- How did Peter heal the man? (In Jesus' name; it was Jesus' power.)

• What did the man do after he could walk? (He jumped up; he praised God; he thanked God.)

• Why did Peter tell people about Jesus? (He wanted them to know that Jesus loves them; Jesus wanted him to.)

• Who helps us serve Jesus? (Jesus does.)

Say: You did a wonderful job of remembering! I'm proud of you. Give each child a quick hug or pat on the back. We've been learning that  $\blacktriangleright$  <u>Jesus helps us</u> <u>serve him</u>, and today we'll hear more about how Jesus helped Peter serve





**BIBLE POINT** 



him. The leaders of the Temple didn't love Jesus, and they didn't want Peter and John to tell others about Jesus' power. So they threw them in jail! But then they saw that Peter and John weren't afraid, so they set them free. They commanded Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus.

Ask: • Do you think Peter and John obeyed that command, or did they obey Jesus? (Jesus!) Show children the picture of Peter and John telling others about Jesus on page 4 in the *Bible Big Book*.

One day Peter helped a woman named Tabitha. Some people called her Dorcas. Hold up the Bible. Our story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Again hold up the *Bible Big Book*. The *Big Book* shows us pictures of the story. You can use your chickenpox spots to help tell our story. You'll need four spots. If you need a spot or two, ask a friend to share. Be sure each child has four spot stickers.

Put your spots on your fingers. Then listen carefully as I read the story. I'll tell you when and where to stick a chickenpox spot. Read the story below while showing children page 5 of the *Bible Big Book*.

Peter traveled to Joppa where a woman named Tabitha lived. Tabitha loved Jesus. She made beautiful shirts and coats for people who didn't have enough money for clothes. When Tabitha got sick and died, her friends begged Peter to help.

Peter sent everyone out of Tabitha's room. He knelt by her bed and prayed. Stick a chickenpox spot to your knee to show how Peter got on his knees to pray. Pause. Then he said, "Tabitha, stand up!" Tabitha opened her eyes and saw Peter. Put a chickenpox spot on your eyebrow to show that Tabitha saw Peter. Pause. Then she sat up. She was alive! Peter offered Tabitha his hand and helped her get up. Stick a chickenpox spot on your hand. Pause. Then he called her friends into the room. They were amazed at the miracle. Soon people everywhere in Joppa had heard about Tabitha. Place a spot on your ear to show how people heard about Tabitha. They believed in Jesus. And Peter kept serving Jesus everywhere he went.

Close the Bible Big Book.

Ask: • **How clid Jesus help Peter serve him?** (He helped Peter make Tabitha better; he gave Peter power.)

• What did Tabitha's friends do when they saw she was alive? (They told other people about what had happened; they were glad and amazed.)

• Why do you think it was good that Tabitha's friends told people what had happened? (It helped them learn about Jesus; then they could serve Jesus.)

Say: Peter served Jesus by praying in his name and by asking that Tabitha be made well again. Peter did three things for Tabitha. He cared for her, he prayed for her, and he helped her. We can do those things, too. It's good to know that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him. Stick your chickenpox spots on your hearts to show how much we love Jesus and want to serve him. Pause.

Remove the two fun masks from the Learning Lab, and set out the bedsheets.

Say: Today we heard the amazing story of how Tabitha came back to life. Let's play a game to help us remember the story, and to praise Jesus for helping us serve him, just as he helped Peter serve him. Have kids sit on the floor with their backs to you, eyes closed. I'll tap one of you on the shoulder. Whoever I tap will get up quietly and come back here with me. You'll put on one of our special *fun masks*, cover your body except your face with a sheet,



and lie on the floor like you're Tabitha. The rest of you have to keep your eyes closed really tightly until I say you can look.

Then you can peek at who's wearing the *fun mask* and try to guess who it is, but you have to stay where you are. If I choose you to be the Guesser, you say, "Jamie, stand up!" If it's Jamie, she'll stand up and take the *fun mask* off. If it's not Jamie, she'll lie still until someone guesses her name correctly. Are you ready? Eyes shut, everyone! No peeking!

Tap a child and have him or her put the *fun mask* on and use the sheet to cover up until only the mask shows. Then let the rest of the class guess who's wearing the *fun mask*. Play the game several times or until each child has had a chance to be Tabitha.

Then have everyone lie down on the floor and call out their answers to the following questions.

Ask: • What was it like to guess who was wearing the *fun mask*? (It was hard because of the mask; it was easy because I know everyone in class.)

• How did you feel when you made the person stand up? (It was fun; I felt glad that I guessed right; I felt good.)

• How do you think Peter felt when Jesus helped him make Tabitha get up? (He probably felt great; he was happy; excited.)

Say: Jesus helped Peter serve him, and  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him. Let's praise Jesus for helping us serve him! Lie down on the floor and pretend to be Tabitha again. When I turn on the praise music, stand up and praise Jesus. When the music stops, lie down again and be quiet.

Play "Great Big Things" (Ephesians 2:10) on the *CD* (track 16). Stop the music at intervals to allow children to hop up and then lie back down. Then lead children in singing the song all the way through. Lyrics are on page 158.

### Do the Bible Story

#### SUPPLIES: Bible

Say: I have a story rhyme for you. Follow along with the actions as I tell you the story.

Tabitha loved and helped the poor (hands on your hearts) And sewed the clothes that they wore. (Make sewing motions.) Then Tabitha got sick and died. (Fall gently to the floor.) All her friends just cried and cried. (Pretend to cry.) They called for Peter right away (cup hands around mouth)— Peter served Jesus, and he would pray. (Drop to your knees.) He told her friends, "Please go away. (Motion to leave.) In Jesus' name I will pray." (Make prayer hands.) "Tabitha, stand up!" Peter said. (Lift arms in the air.) She opened her eyes and sat up in bed! (Sit up straight on the floor.)





JESUS CONNECTION

We know that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him, and we can serve others when they're sick, too. Open your Bible to Ephesians 2:10, and show children the verse. Say: We know the Bible is God's Word. And in Ephesians 2:10 it says,  $\blacktriangleright$  "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." God sent us his Son, Jesus, to live on earth and teach people

about God. When we believe in Jesus and keep him in our hearts, we can live forever with him in heaven someday. God wants us to do good things for each other, like helping people when they're sick and telling others about Jesus.

# ${\rm Say:}\ I$ heard Pockets sneezing earlier today. Maybe we can serve Jesus by helping our friend Pockets.

# Closing

# Kerchoo, Kangaroo!

**SUPPLIES:** facial tissue, tape, small blanket

Before class, tape a facial tissue to Pockets' paw.

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo. Go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets out of sight.

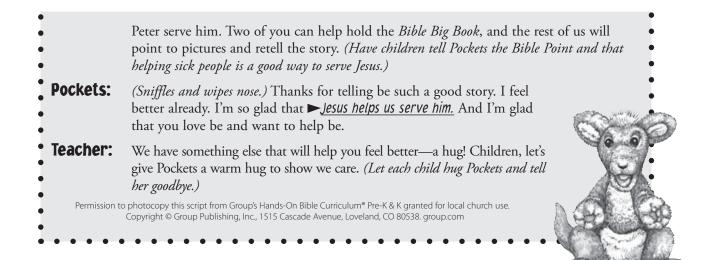


Pockets:	(Sneezing) AhhahhhhahhhchooOOOOY! Hi, ebrybody.		
Teacher:	It sounds like you have a cold, Pockets.		
Pockets:	Yes, I hab a code. By nose itches and by eyes are watery and ( <i>sniffles</i> )I keep sneesneee.aahhhchoo! ( <i>Wipes her nose.</i> ) S'cuse be.		
Teacher:	Oh, we're sorry you don't feel well today. ( <i>Lean in and whisper to children.</i> ) I think we can serve Pockets and help her feel better. Let's wrap her in a blanket and read her a story. That helps me feel better. ( <i>Speaking aloud to Pockets</i> ) Pockets, we've been learning that ►Jesus helps us serve him and that Peter helped someone get better. We'd like to help you feel better. ( <i>Hand a small blanket to one of the children and let him or her tuck it around Pockets</i> .)		
Pockets:	Thank you so buch. That feels nice.		
Teacher:	Would you like us to tell you a story? (Hold up the Bible Big Book: How Peter Served Jesus.) Children, let's tell Pockets about our Bible story and how Jesus helped		





#### Lesson 12





# Hearts Share

SUPPLIES: tablecloth and sandwiches from Option 3 (or other snack), napkins

Spread the tablecloth from Option 3 on the floor. Set the plate of heart-shaped sandwiches in the center of the tablecloth. Say: Find a place to sit on the picnic cloth. Pause for children to be seated. Hand each child a napkin. We're going to enjoy the snacks we made. One good way to serve Jesus is to make a nice snack for a sick person and take it to that sick person on a tray. Isn't it nice to know that  $\blacktriangleright$  Jesus helps us serve him? I'll pass out our picnic sandwiches. As you take one, tell a way you can serve Jesus this week, such as helping a sick friend or praying for someone or telling others about Jesus. Don't eat your treats until everyone has a sandwich.

After everyone's told a way to serve Jesus, say: Let's join hands and pray. Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for your love and for helping us serve you. Please help those who are sick get better so they can serve you, too. In your name, amen.

As children leave, have them throw their napkins away.



# Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



# For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

# Lively Learning: Grug Hug

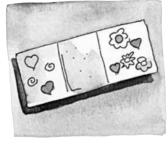
Form two lines facing each other at opposite ends of the room. Help children in each line number off by threes. Say: One way to serve Jesus is to spread his love. This game is called Grug, and it will remind us to spread Jesus' love to others. I'll call a number. The people with that number can walk heel to toe to the center of the room and give each other a hug. Then return to your places, and I'll call another number.

End by calling all three numbers at once so all children receive hugs at once. Remind children that  $\blacktriangleright$  <u>Jesus</u> <u>helps us serve him</u> and that it's important to spread Jesus' love to others.

# Make to Take: Patch-Me-Ups

Before this activity, cut a brown grocery sack into 3x6-inch strips. Cut one strip for each child. Draw a large square in the center of each strip to make it look like a plastic bandage.

Set out markers, glue sticks, sequins, the *ink pad*, and all three rubber stamps from the Learning Lab. Hand each child a paper strip. Explain that these bandages are to remind them that  $\blacktriangleright$  *Jesus helps us serve him* and that we can be like Peter and help those who are sick. Invite children to decorate their paper bandages with the items you set out. As they work, encourage them to retell the story of Tabitha and how Peter helped bring her back to life. Tell children to use their bandages as Bible bookmarks.



# Treat to Eat: Smile Snacks

Set out small bowls of applesauce, plastic spoons, and hot cinnamon candies. Let children each make a cheery smile with cinnamon candies on their applesauce. Explain that cheering someone up when they're sick helps them feel better. Let children enjoy their treats and tell about a time they were sick and someone helped them feel better.



# 🔳 Story Picture: Peter Helps Tabitha

Before class, cut out 1/2-inch squares of colored felt. Cut three or four squares for each child.

Hand each child a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out glue sticks and the felt squares. Invite children to make Tabitha a colorful mat by gluing felt in patchwork designs on the mat in the picture. As children work, remind them how Tabitha helped poor people by making them blankets, mats, and clothes to keep them warm. Point out that Jesus helps us serve him and that Tabitha served Jesus by helping others. Today your child learned that Jesus helps us serve him. Children learned that Peter brought Tabitha back to life. They talked about ways to serve Jesus and help sick people.

roday I learned.

# Verse to Learn

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10).

## ask Me...

- How did Peter serve Jesus when he helped Tabitha?
- What's one way you can help someone who's sick?
- How can our family stay healthy to serve Jesus?



• Let your child help make Tabitha biscuits for a family treat. Have your child put refrigerator biscuits on a cookie-sheet "bed." Then spread a "blanket" of butter on biscuits and sprinkle them with cinnamon sugar. Add a few chocolate chip "pillows." Bake at 350 degrees for eight minutes. Peek at the biscuits while they bake, and point out that biscuits rise up just as Tabitha rose when Peter prayed to Jesus.

