



UNIT 32 | SESSION 1

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

ACTS 9

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 12:12

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

When the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform miracles, people saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus' miracles, which proved He is the Son of God who came to bring salvation to the world.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Peter’s miracles in Acts 9 showcase the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the early church. Though the people who witnessed and heard of these healings and resurrections were amazed and intrigued, Peter did not perform them to wow the crowd or to even illustrate his own strength. Rather, he met people’s needs as a means of demonstrating God’s power at work, that more may come to saving faith in Jesus and truly believe Him to be Messiah and Lord.

What was the significance of the restoration of Aeneas and the revival of Dorcas? What did these events reveal about Christ’s saving power through the faith of Peter?

Both instances of Peter’s miraculous acts were evidence of Christ’s power to heal despite the impossible circumstances. While Christ’s power through Peter brought physical healing to the man in Lydda, it also brought spiritual healing to the people in Lydda and Sharon as they turned to the Lord. Similarly, Dorcas’ resurrection was used by God to draw many people to faith in Christ—the One who holds power over the grave.

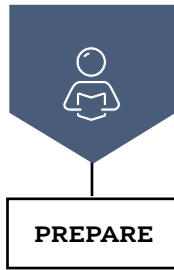
These miracles performed by Peter point to the reality of Jesus’ power and to the proof that He is still alive within His followers. The usual patterns of sickness and death were

not the final endings for Aeneas and Dorcas; rather, they were the work of the Lord’s restoration and redemption—pointing to the reality that everlasting life is ours through the power of Jesus. And through these events, we are encouraged to remember the hope we have in Christ, who is making all things new.

As you lead your kids this week, remember that you, too, get to share the good news of hope and healing to the next generation of young disciples. Just as Peter “called the saints and widows and presented [Dorcas] alive,” so, too, are you proclaiming the gift of everlasting life you have in Jesus.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Dorcas: a Christian woman of Joppa who was known for her charitable works (Acts 9:36). She was also called Tabitha, an Aramaic name.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “Who Has the Power?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- AAA battery
- AA battery
- C battery
- D battery
- 9-Volt battery

Session Starter (Option 2)

- backpacks, 3
- books, 16



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “Peter Performed Miracles” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- New Testament Israel Map (optional)

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 32, Session 1” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- map of the United States
- “Send South Florida” missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “Many Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- brown paper bags, 1 per kid
- “Alligator Face” printable, 1 per kid
- red, white, and green construction papers, 1 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ When have you seen something amazing? What was it? Why were you so amazed? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Who Has the Power?” on the activity page.

| **SAY** “ The answer you decoded was the Holy Spirit. Today, we will learn how the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform miracles. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: BATTERY POWER



Before the session, gather AAA, AA, C, D, and 9-Volt batteries. Display the batteries on a table, in any order, and direct kids to look at the batteries, observing their differences. Prompt kids to think about which battery they think has more power.

Hold up each battery one at a time and lead kids to raise their hand when the battery they think has the most power is raised. Then reveal the order of the battery power from the least to the most: AAA, AA, C, D, and 9-Volt. Consider asking kids what types of tools or objects these batteries can power such as a flashlight and remote control car.

| **SAY** “ Each battery has power and is used to give power to different types of devices like flashlights, toys, and calculators. But the 9-Volt battery has the most power. Yet, even a battery’s power is nothing compared to the power of God. Today, we will learn how Peter displayed the power of the Holy Spirit as he performed miracles. ”

OPTION 2: CAN YOU LIFT IT?

Before the session, gather three backpacks and fill the first one with three books, the second one with five books, and the last one with eight books. Place the backpacks at the front of the room.

Invite three kids at a time to lift up each backpack. Make sure they try to lift up each one. Continue inviting kids in groups of threes to lift up the backpacks until everyone has had a turn.

| **SAY** “ These backpacks were heavy! It required a lot of power to lift them. Could you imagine trying to carry these backpacks around all day? It would be hard! We are not all-powerful and are limited in what we can do. But God isn’t. He holds all power! Today, we will learn how God gave Peter power through His Spirit to perform miracles. Let’s get ready to learn more. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, everyone! My name is [your name]. I’m so glad you’re here with us today. Did anyone bring their Bible? Hold up your Bible if you brought yours. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

Today, we will learn how Peter performed miracles. We’ll see how it wasn’t Peter who had power, but God’s Spirit who gave Peter power. Let’s hear how the miracles Peter performed helped more people trust in Jesus. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Our big picture question for today and the next few weeks is, **What is the church?** Have you ever heard someone say, ‘We are going to church?’ [Allow responses.] When we go to church the building is where the people of God, the church, meet to worship together! But a building is not the church. So, **what is the church?** The answer we will learn is, **The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.** Let’s repeat that together: **The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to help His followers share the gospel throughout the world. After the Holy Spirit came, the apostles and other believers boldly shared the good news through the Spirit’s power. The early church grew, even when they faced hard times. The church first began in Jerusalem, grew into Judea, and was about to expand into Samaria and toward the ends of the earth. Today, we will learn how the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform miracles so that more people could be united to Jesus’ church. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 9. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Peter Performed Miracles.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

PETER PERFORMED MIRACLES

“ Peter had become a leader in the early church. Through the Holy Spirit, God’s power enabled him and Jesus’ other apostles to heal people and to speak boldly about Jesus the Messiah. During this time, the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Jesus’ followers honored God, and the Holy Spirit encouraged them. More people joined the church.

Peter was traveling from place to place. He visited the Christians living in a town called Lydda (LID uh). In that town was a man named Aeneas (ih NEE uhs). Aeneas was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. Peter said to Aeneas, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed,” and immediately Aeneas got up. When this happened, many people saw that Aeneas was healed and turned to the Lord.

In the city of Joppa (JAHP uh), there was a follower of Jesus named Tabitha; she was also known as Dorcas. She was always doing good works—helping people in need and making clothes for widows. Over time, Dorcas got sick and died. The disciples in Joppa sent two men to Lydda to get Peter.

Peter went to Joppa. He went upstairs in the house where Dorcas’ body lay. Peter sent Dorcas’ friends out of the room and knelt down beside her body. Peter prayed and then said, “Tabitha, get up.”

She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. Peter called for the disciples and friends, and they saw that Dorcas was alive! This miracle became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Christ Connection: When the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform miracles, people saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus’ miracles, which proved He is the Son of God who came to bring salvation to the world. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Clap aloud: Lead kids to clap when they hear people believe in Jesus.

Point to a map: Use the New Testament Israel Map to point out Lydda (G3) and Joppa (G2) as you teach about them in the story.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God used Peter in His plan to build His church. As Peter and the other disciples shared the good news, the church grew and had spread out to different parts of Judea and Samaria. Jesus promised that His church would grow into all parts of the world. In our story today, Peter visited churches in Lydda and Joppa.

Who were the two Christians Peter healed through the Spirit’s power? **[Allow responses.]** Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter healed a paralyzed man named Aeneas and raised Dorcas back to life. These miracles helped prove the gospel. Jesus really does have the power to heal and to save!

What happened in the towns because Peter performed these miracles? **[Allow responses.]** The power of the Holy Spirit not only healed people but changed their hearts to trust in Jesus. Many people turned to the Lord and were saved from their sin. We can be saved from our sin when we confess our sin and trust in Jesus. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ When the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform miracles, people saw what happened and believed in Jesus. These miracles remind us of Jesus’ miracles, which proved He is the Son of God who came to bring salvation to the world. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 32, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Will we be sad in heaven if our family is not there yet? Why not?
2. Why can we always have hope even if we die?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display a map of the United States as you tell the kids about Florida.

SAY “ Florida is a state in the southeastern part of the US. Its nickname is ‘The Sunshine State.’ The shape of Florida is called a peninsula, which means it is almost surrounded by water. Florida has many beautiful beaches and even includes a chain of islands called the Florida Keys. Many people come to Florida for the beaches and the many outdoor attractions including theme parks, golf, and nature preserves. ”

Play the missions video. Tell kids that the North American Mission Board (NAMB) works with many missionaries and church planters to tell the people of South Florida about Jesus. Explain that one out of five people in Florida were born in another country. Share how this means many people do not speak English. Tell kids that one of the best ways to love non-English speaking neighbors is through local churches teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. People working with ESL ministries want to tell others about Jesus as they help



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

people learn to speak English. Close in prayer, thanking God for the ESL ministries that help people learn English and about Jesus' love for them.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12 together.

SAY “ The Bible describes the church as a body. The church is made of many Christians just like a body is made of many parts. The church is Jesus' body here on earth. ”

Write the key passage on a dry erase board. Lead kids to say the key passage aloud two times. After the second time, erase two words. Then recite the key passage again. Repeat until the verse is completely erased.

Lead kids to sing “Many Parts (1 Corinthians 12:12).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

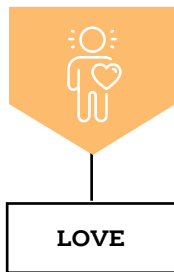
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, that You have given us the Holy Spirit. You are our Healer and Savior. By the power of Your Spirit, help us share the good news of the gospel with others. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 9. Remind kids that the Bible is made of 66 books. Invite kids to name as many of the 27 New Testament books as they can.

Consider pointing out the location of Joppa (G2) and Lydda (G3) on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 9:39-40.

SAY “ Before Peter raised Dorcas from the dead, he prayed. Peter recognized that he needed God. He also might have prayed to ask God for direction as to what God wanted to do about Dorcas’ death. Peter had no power without God, and he needed God to perform the miracle.

When we seek God in prayer, we show that we need and trust God. Only God has the power to heal and to save. We can ask Him to help us and give us direction in our lives as we live to honor Him. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ What do Peter’s miracles remind you of? ”

Prompt kids to remember Jesus’ miracles that He performed when He was on earth. Tell kids that like Jesus, Peter was able to demonstrate God’s power over sickness and death. Remind kids that Peter’s power didn’t come from himself but from the Holy Spirit who dwelt within him.

| **SAY** “ Why do you think people trusted in Jesus after Peter performed these miracles? ”

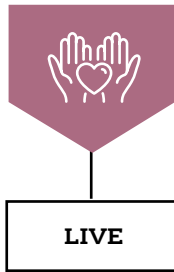
Answers will vary. Discuss how the miracles of healing and raising someone from the dead help show that the truth of the gospel is real. Explain how the message of the gospel teaches us that God has power over sin and death. Tell kids that just as the Holy Spirit gave Peter power to perform the miracles, He also worked in people’s hearts to help them believe.

| **SAY** “ How can these stories help you trust God? ”

Answers will vary. Encourage kids to remember that all of the stories of the Bible are true. Remind kids that these stories point to an even greater display of God’s power through Jesus, who lived a perfect life, died in our place, and rose from the dead. Invite kids to ask questions or initiate an invitation to learn more about how they can trust in Jesus as Savior.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: ALLIGATOR PUPPET



Provide each kid with a brown paper bag; “Alligator Face” printable; red, white, and green construction paper; scissors; glue; and markers. Lead kids to make an alligator puppet by following these instructions: Cut out the alligator face from the printable. Turn the paper bag so the bottom flap is facing upward, and glue the face to the flap. Cut a tongue from red construction paper and triangle teeth from white construction paper. Lift the flap and glue the tongue and teeth to the paper bag. Then cut a tail from green construction paper, and glue it to the back of the bag.

SAY “ Alligators are a common reptile in Florida. The Everglades, a National Park in South Florida, is home to over 200,000 alligators. As you play with your alligator puppets, remember to pray that the people of South Florida will hear the gospel and trust in Jesus. ”

OPTION 2: CHURCH TOUR



Before the session, plan a tour of your church building to help kids see all the different places available to serve. Consider visiting such areas as the church office, nursery, middle and high school rooms, the doors where people greet, and even those in the church kitchen.

Point to the Big Picture Question Poster and read it aloud. Remind kids that **the church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.** Invite kids on a tour of the church and encourage them to observe all the people serving in different ways.

SAY “ The church has many members and every person has a way to serve others. Whenever we gather together, we love each other by how we serve one another. It takes everyone working together to help the church grow and share the gospel. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.