

## WEEK 2

### ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

the messengers



### THE BIG IDEA

We can share the stories of God's miracles.

### THE BIBLE

**Peter Heals Tabitha:** Acts 9:36-43;  
Psalm 77:11-14

## LARGE GROUP TIME

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "Messengers" (Lecrae)
  - "Send Me" (Yancy)
  - "As the World Shakes" (Hillsong Kids)
  - "Spirit Move" (Bright Ones)
  - "Love One Another" (Newsboys)

#### ACTIVITY | First Aid Game

- Welcome back! This month is all about the people who delivered the message about Jesus to the world. Part of this message involved the miracle of healing! Let's play a healing game of our own.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pick teams of three: a dispatcher, a runner, and a medic. Enlist a brave person to be the patient (or draw the outline of a person on the board.) The dispatcher has a pair of dice and a set of "bandages" (strips of painter's tape), and stands across the room from the patient. The medic waits by the patient, and the runner goes back and forth between them. When the game begins, the dispatcher rolls the dice to determine how many bandages to give to the runner, who runs them to the medic. The medic takes the bandages and puts them on the patient. The team that uses all the bandages first wins!

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Play a game of medical trivia. Give a medical term and they have to guess which part of the body is being taken care of at that time. We suggest using this [list](#) to help give you some ideas.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide people cutouts and have kids put colorful band-aids on the people.*

### ACTIVITY | Card Tower

- Greeting cards are one way to send a message. You can use them for a birthday, a holiday, to say thank you, or to wish for someone to get better when they are not feeling well.
- Let's play a game with greeting cards. Who can build the tallest tower in one minute?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a handful of greeting cards (used cards will work). They have one minute to build a tower with the cards. The kid with the tallest tower wins!*
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Make this into a "minute to win it" challenge for some of your preteens! Have preteens work as a team to stack the cards, while using only one hand to build their tower or wearing blindfolds.*

### QUESTION | Have you ever gotten a get-well message?

- **Have you ever been sick, and someone sent you a get-well card?** Maybe they also sent you a balloon, flowers, or a teddy bear.
- **How did that make you feel?**
- When you're not feeling well, messages like these can be good news to you!

**SO WHAT?** *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

### BIBLE STORY | Peter Heals Tabitha

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Enlist kids to play Peter, Tabitha, and friends, and act out the story from Acts 9:36–43 as you tell it, with Tabitha lying down with eyes closed until being told to get up.*
- Peter was one of Jesus's disciples who helped spread the good news about Jesus to others.
- Sometimes it was through speaking and other times, it was through actions. Peter often shared the good news by comforting people who were sad, upset, or sick.
- Today's story is about one of those times. One day, two men ran up to Peter and said, "Please, come at once!" So, Peter followed them to an upstairs room.
- There lay the body of a woman named Tabitha.
  - Tabitha was one of Jesus's disciples, too. She was always doing good and helping the poor.
  - But Tabitha got very sick and died.
  - Many of her friends who she had once helped were in the room. They were crying as they showed Peter all the clothes that Tabitha made for them when she was alive.
- Everyone was mourning, but not Peter. He sent everyone else out of the room.
  - **What do you think happened next?**

- Peter got down on his knees and started praying! Then, he turned toward Tabitha's body and said something.
  - **What do you think he said?**
- Peter simply said, "Tabitha, get up."
  - Tabitha opened her eyes and sat up! She came back to life! It was a miracle!
  - Peter took Tabitha by the hand and helped her stand up. Then he called everyone back into the room. They couldn't believe it!
- When word got out about this miracle, many people in Tabitha's town, Joppa, decided to follow Jesus, just like Peter and Tabitha did!

### BIG IDEA | We can share the stories of God's miracles.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Enlist the Special Messenger (SM) to "interrupt," carrying a huge greeting card with the message "We can share the stories of God's miracles."
- **Storyteller:** That was a really sad story with a happy ending. **Can you imagine how Tabitha's friends must have felt?**
- **SM:** Special Delivery! Special Delivery! I have a greeting card meant especially for everyone in this room. Here. *[Hands card to Storyteller.]* Why don't you read it to everyone?
- **Storyteller:** Why, thank you, Special Messenger. Let's see what it says. *(Open card to show the group.)* **We can share the stories of God's miracles.**
- **SM:** Well, what do you know! That's the Big Idea for today. **We can share stories of God's miracles.**
- **Storyteller:** That's right! Let's all say the Big Idea together. **We can share stories of God's miracles!**

### VIDEO | The Messengers, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

### ACTIVITY | Miracle Report

- What happened to Tabitha was a miracle! A miracle is something that happens that no amount of human reasoning could explain. It goes against logic and the rules of nature . . . which is how we know only God could have done such an amazing thing!
- The Bible is full of miracle stories like Tabitha's, in both the Old and New Testaments. Let's learn about some together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide kids into groups of four or five and give each of them a miracle in the Bible to read about together — you could even assign leaders to read with them. You can print out passages to distribute or have kids look it up in their own Bibles ([here are a few ideas](#) to get you started). After they read about it, have each group share what happened in that miracle story through retelling or a short skit.
- Even though some people might find them hard to believe, **we can share stories of God's miracles**, because the more we do, the more we can let people know how powerful and loving God is!

### OBJECT LESSON | Connective Tissue

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a box of tissues for this lesson. Make sure you use the style of box in which another tissue automatically pops up when you remove one.
- **Have you ever heard a story that made you so sad that you wanted to cry?** Or maybe you did cry. I know that's what I felt like doing at the beginning of Tabitha's story. She was such a kind person who loved God. It's not fair that she died!
- *[Pretend to cry dramatically, pulling out tissues and blowing your nose.]*
- Hmm. Interesting. Each time I pull out a tissue, another one pops up! **Why is that?**
- You're right, it's because they are connected!
- What does this have to do with today's story? The Bible tells us that after Tabitha was raised to life again, this news traveled quickly in the town of Joppa. The story of God's miracle through Peter connected all the believers together and became a wonderful story to share with everyone.
- We are also connected to each other through these stories. **We can share the stories of God's miracles** to begin, but the real connection happens when we can talk about how these stories help us know God better.
- And just like how these tissues keep popping up, we can learn to recognize how God does amazing things in our lives every day, too!

### BIBLE | Psalm 77:11-14

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a volunteer to read Psalm verses 11-12 and another to read verses 13-14.
- In Psalm 77 verses 11-12, the author of the psalm says they will remember everything God has done in the past.
- **Close your eyes and think of something God has done for you.**
- In verses 13-14, it's no longer talking about the past. The psalmist says that God is still great and still performing miracles.
- **We can share the stories of God's miracles,** and not just the ones from the Bible. We can share with others all the ways God is at work in our lives right now!

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?*

### REFLECTION | Miracle Stories

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story of a personal miracle in your life, or that of someone else you know. Encourage kids to think about some of the good things God has done in their lives, too.
- We might not have all experienced a miracle like Tabitha's, but God still does great and unexplainable things!
- **What are some good or unbelievable things God has done in your life, or you've heard about from someone else?**
- When we share stories about the good things God has done, we help deliver the message about God's love for the world!
- **We can share the stories of God's miracles.**

### RESPONSE | Bandage Reminders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide each kid one adhesive bandage and a permanent marker or pen.
- A lot of miracles we learn about involve healing — about how God helps those who are sick.
- Think of one person you know that might need a miracle of healing. If you don't know of anyone, think of someone you want to share a story of God's miracles with this week. Write that person's name on your bandage and then place that bandage on your arm to remind you.
- **We can share the stories of God's miracles.**

### MEMORY VERSE | Greeting Card Unscramble

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write small chunks of the memory verse on the inside of blank greeting cards. After reading the memory verse for the kids a couple of times, hand out each card to different kids. Have one volunteer go around and try to collect the cards in order. Repeat as many times as you'd like!
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Put up the cards in order on a board or the wall. Have them go to each card and lift the flap and have them say the phrase written there with you.
- **Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)**

### PRAYER

- God, thank you for all the wonderful things you have done. Remind us to share the stories of your miracles and encourage the people around us. Nothing is impossible for you! Thank you for loving us and for hearing our prayers. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- What was Tabitha known for before she died?
- What did Peter do when Tabitha's friends asked him for help?
- What happened when the people in Tabitha's town heard what had happened?
- Read Psalm 77:11. Is there a miracle from the Bible you remember?
- How do you think sharing stories of God's miracles can help others?
- How do you know God still does miracles?
- Who can you share the stories of God's miracles with? What will you tell them?

### ACTIVITY | Sent with Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide pipe cleaners for kids to make a flower arrangement for someone that might be sick or have kids give them to members of your community who are in the hospital or are in assisted living homes. You might want to send or print out [these instructions](#) for your small group leaders or even try them out together in advance.

- Tabitha seems to have been surrounded by a community of people who cared about her when she got sick. There are people in our lives that need that kind of caring community, too. **We can share the stories of God's miracles** to show that God cares about them, and we can show that we care about them also!

#### MEMORY VERSE | Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at [growcurriculum.org/Isaiah6-8](http://growcurriculum.org/Isaiah6-8).
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"**