

Through the story of Tabitha, children experience how a Christian woman's influence in her community can bring other people to faith.

**Text:** Acts 9:36-43

**Supplies/Materials:**

- ⊗ A rope or a piece of wool that is stretched between 2 sticks/pillars/brooms in the room
- ⊗ A bag of old clothes (with a pair of shoes)
- ⊗ A plastic laundry peg (as small as possible) to add to sensory bottle
- ⊗ Copies of pictures
- ⊗ Laundry pegs
- ⊗ Copies of the worksheets
- ⊗ Ice cream sticks (2 for each child)
- ⊗ Glue
- ⊗ A4 pages/cardboard (1 for each child)
- ⊗ Make copies of the washing line activity and laminate the copies
- ⊗ Clay in different colours

## WELCOME

**Choice of games with clothes:**

- \* Bring a lot of old clothes, or borrow them from a clothing bank, and have a dressing race. Let the children sit in a row behind each other. The person in front must take a piece of clothing out of the bag, put it on, take it off again and give it over his head to the person sitting behind him/her. That child must do the same until the last child in the row is finished.
- \* Give pieces of clothing to the group/each group and give them a chance to dress one of the members in a creative way like a mannequin. Have a quick fashion show.
- \* If you have a few extra, large clothing items, the children can try to see how many can fit into those clothes at the same time.

## WORSHIP

**Songs:**

"Alive, alive"

"Every move I make in You"

**Theme song:**

The children sit with eyes closed and listen to the song "Trust in the Lord". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZJtZzQBB0>). The song can be played a few times and the children can sing along as soon as they catch the tune.

**Settle down ritual:**

Pass the sensory bottle around while the children say Psalms 23:1-3: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

## WORD

*(Do this before the session starts: Make a washing line by stretching and tightening a rope/wool across the part of the room where you will be telling the story. Use pegs to hang the patterns on the washing line while you are telling the story. You can use real clothes or enlarge the patterns that are provided.)*

Today we are going to meet another “strange woman” in the Bible. Something very, very strange happened to her. Let’s listen to the story...

**Text:** Acts 9:36-43: In the city of Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. *(Hang the dress on the washing line.)* She was always doing good and helping the poor. *(Hang the apron on the washing line.)* While Peter was in Lydda, Tabitha became sick and died. *(Hang a white cloth on the line.)* When they had washed her body, they laid it in an upstairs room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples (hearing that Peter was there) sent two men to him, urging him: “Come with us without delay”. So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him to the upstairs room. All the widows stood beside him, weeping. *(Hang the sad face on the line.)* They showed him all the tunics and robes that Tabitha used to make while she was still alive. But Peter sent them all out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the body and said: “Tabitha, stand up!” She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. *(Hang the shoes on the line and put a pair of real shoes underneath the hanging dress.)* Then he called in the believers and the widows into the room. He showed them Tabitha; she was alive! This became known all over Joppa and many came to believe in the Lord. *(Hang the paper men on the washing line.)*

**Children now get a chance to think about the story:**

1. I wonder which part of the story you like the most.
2. I wonder which part of the story would you have changed or taken out.
3. I wonder how you would react if you were there when it happened.
4. I wonder if you can think about someone else whose story brought other people to faith.

## WORKS

- ◆ Give each child a piece of paper and crayons and let them draw the part of the story that was most important to them.
- ◆ Give the following to each child: A page with the patterns; 2 ice cream sticks; a piece of wool and a clean A4 page or cardboard. Let the children colour the pictures and cut them out. They can then make a washing line on the A4 paper by pasting the 2 ice cream sticks as the poles of the washing line and pasting the wool string between the sticks. They can now paste the pictures of the clothes on the washing line. The pictures must be in the same order as in the story.
- ◆ Clay washing line: Copy the picture of the washing line with clothes and laminate the copies. Let the children decorate all the clothes on the washing line with coloured clay in many different colours. While they do that, ask them to think about people they know whom they can thank God for.
- ◆ Give some time for the children to tell the story to each other by using their washing line and patterns. They can also use the large washing line and patterns to tell the story to each other. *(This is ideal for a “take it home” activity.)*

**BENEDICTION: Close the session with the blessing:**

May the Lord go before you to show you the right path;

May the Lord be behind you to protect you;

May the Lord be beside you to comfort and embrace you;

May the Lord be below you to catch you when you fall;

May the Lord be above you to bless you;

May the Lord be in you to guide you with His Holy Spirit. Amen.



"Many widows were there crying. They showed him the coats and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was still alive." Acts 9:39 (CEV)

















