

Thanksgiving

13

Bible Focus: Acts 9:36-42

Bible Memory: Psalm 100:4, 5

Life Focus: ♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Heart to Heart

Dorcas exemplifies a person who used both her abilities and her assets to serve God and others, and her deeds were not forgotten. Think about how you want to be remembered at death. How do your peers identify you now? Does your life shout of praise and thanks to God? Do you ♥ show thankfulness to God by loving others? Pray that this lesson will impact your life as well as your students' lives.

Lesson 13 at a Glance

Step 1

Focus In

Use one of these activities to help kids *identify ministries that express God's love to others.*

 **Quick Step:** What Are You Wearing?



Option: Testimonies of Ministry



HeartShaper Materials

- Resources Sheet 8

Other Materials

- suitcase with "vocational" clothing or items inside
- **Note:** Invite two people to be guest speakers

Step 2

Explore His Word

Use all of these activities to help kids *discover ways that Dorcas helped people* and develop Bible skills.

Bible Exploration: Noteworthy Names



Bible Memory: All Together Now



Bible Skill Builder: The O. T. Shuffle



- Activities for Lesson 13

- Resources Sheets 1, 6, 7

- Resources Sheets 2 and 4

- pencils, Bibles

- Bibles

- index cards prepared in advance

Step 3

Make It Real

Use one of these activities to help kids *identify ways they can show thankfulness to God by showing love to others.*

 **Quick Step:** Helping Hand



Option: Design It!



- Resources CD Track #

- photocopies of reproducible page 96, Activities for Lesson 13

- CD player

- pencils, markers or colored pencils

Step 4

Live It Out

Use one of these activities to help kids *show thankfulness to God by loving others.*

 **Quick Step:** Encouragement



Option: Friendship Rolls



- Activities for Lesson 13

- notepaper or blank index cards, colored pencils or markers, (optional: postage stamps, envelopes)

- margarine or cooking spray, ½ cup of sugar, 2 tablespoons of cinnamon, 2 cans of biscuit dough, medium-size bowl, two baking sheets, plastic wrap, ribbon

Focus In (10 minutes)

Life Focus

- ♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Step 1 • Use one of the following activities to help your students identify ministries that express God's love to others.

✓ Up!

How did students give thanks to God during the past week?

Quick Step What Are You Wearing?

Show the "What You Wear" poster, *Resources* Sheet 8, and read aloud the saying on the poster. Allow students to express their opinions on what they think the saying means.

Tell students they are going to perform instant skits. Have one student go to the suitcase, reach in without looking, and select an item or piece of clothing. The student must then role-play the person who might be wearing the clothing or using the item. The student should tell what special abilities God has given to the person and how that individual can use his abilities to show God's love to others. Allow each student to pull an item from the suitcase and act out a ministry to others.

- **Do you think every person can have a ministry that displays his or her love for God to others?** (Yes, God made each person with special abilities; every believer has a function as part of God's body, the church.)

- **Why is what we do for God more important than what we wear?** (Saying we love and are grateful to God doesn't mean anything if we are unwilling to show that love to others.)

Let's find out how Dorcas ♥ showed thankfulness to God by loving others.

Option Testimonies of Ministry

Early in the week, ask two people to come to your class to share testimonies of times when fellow Christians showed God's love to them. In their talks, the guests should share who showed God's love and in what ways that love was shown. Perhaps meals were provided during an illness, help was given in repairing a car, or a card of encouragement was sent.

- **How is thanks to God shown when Christians help others?** (Christians show God that they are thankful for the blessings He has given to them when they are willing to share those blessings with others.)

Today's Scripture lesson is about a woman who ♥ showed thankfulness to God by loving others. Let's find out what she did.

Materials

Resources Sheet 8, suitcase with "vocational" clothing or items inside: a construction hat, a firefighter's helmet, a stethoscope, a director's baton, a choir robe, and so on



Note

Invite two people to be guest speakers for your class today.



Life Focus

- ♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

Step 2 • Use all three of these activities to help your students discover ways that Dorcas helped people and develop Bible skills.

Bible Background for the Teacher

The miracle recorded in today's Scripture text took place in Joppa, a principal seaport of Judea. As in many Mediterranean seaports, several languages were spoken in Joppa. It was not unusual for a person to be known by one name in one language and by another name with the same meaning in another language. The woman called Tabitha in Aramaic was also called Dorcas in Greek. The feminine form of the Greek word for *disciple* is used in this text to describe Dorcas. This is the only time in the New Testament that a woman is called a disciple.

When Dorcas became sick and died, the women of her household prepared Dorcas's body for burial. The body was placed in a small room built on top of a roof where friends could come to mourn the death.

The believers in Joppa knew Peter was 10 miles away at Lydda, about a three-hour walk. They sent two messengers to bring the apostle "at once," because the Jewish law required corpses be buried the same day of the death, before sundown. The text does not say for what purpose Peter was called.

Upon his arrival, Peter was immediately surrounded by grieving widows of the community who wanted to show him how kind and caring the deceased woman had been. Widows were often the poorest and most forgotten members of ancient societies. Dorcas not only had remembered them, she also had made both inner tunics and outer mantles for those in need. This was a generous gift both in time and monetary value.

Peter sent everyone out of the room so that he might kneel and pray in peace and quiet before the Lord. God graciously answered Peter's prayer by raising Dorcas from the dead. Peter helped Dorcas ("Tabitha") up and reunited her with her friends. The purpose of this resurrection is given in verse 42: to encourage the people of Joppa to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Dorcas ♥ showed thankfulness to God by loving others. We can too.

How to Say It

Tabitha	<i>Tab-ih-thuh</i>
Dorcas	<i>Dor-kus</i>
Joppa	<i>Jop-uh</i>
Lydda	<i>Lid-uh</i>

Materials

Activities for Lesson 13,
pencils, Bibles



Bible Exploration: Noteworthy Names

Distribute *Activities* for Lesson 13. Direct your students' attention to the "Noteworthy Names" activity. Explain that today's Scripture lesson tells about two people who lived their lives for God. Have students find and read the listed Scriptures and fill in the missing information about Peter and Dorcas.

(Answers to "Noteworthy Names":

Peter	Hometown	Bethsaida
	Known for	raising Dorcas, leading people to Jesus
	Talents	fishing, explaining Jesus to others
Dorcas	Hometown	Joppa
	Known for	doing good, helping the poor
	Talents	making clothes and robes)

Read together Acts 9:36-42. **Dorcas was known as someone who followed Jesus' teaching. In verse 36, she is called a disciple.**

- **How did people respond to Dorcas's death?** (The widows cried. The disciples sent for Peter to come at once.)
- **Why did the women mourn Dorcas's death?** (She had provided clothing for them. They appreciated her help.)
- **How did Dorcas express her love for God?** (She used the talents and resources God had given her to show love to others.)

We will discover some different ways that we can ♥ show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Explore His Word (continued)

Bible Memory: All Together Now

Review all of the Bible memory passages from this quarter. Refer to the Bible memory posters from the *Resources* packet. Say the references aloud and have kids race to find the passages in their Bibles.

- Which of these passages is your favorite?
- Why do you like it best?
- Have any of these Scriptures helped you this quarter? If so, how?
- Which verses remind us to show thankfulness to God?

Note: The Bible memory verses in the *King James Version* are included on the *Resources* CD.

Bible Skill Builder: The O. T. Shuffle

We just learned about a woman who spent her whole life loving and serving others.

- Can you think of some people who lived in Old Testament times who spent their lives loving and serving others?

Now we're going to play a game to solidify our knowledge of Old Testament people, events and eras.

Prepare 21 events cards with references. Copy each event and its Scripture reference from the maze onto an index card—one event per card. Shuffle these cards and place them facedown in a stack on the table. Also shuffle the Old Testament people cards and the Old Testament era cards and place facedown in separate stacks on the table.

Preteens will take turns selecting cards from a specific stack and place them in chronological order—beginning with the era cards, then sorting events cards in order within the eras, and then adding people cards in their correct order.

You could have students lay the cards out on a table, use reusable adhesive to place them on a classroom wall as a time line, or use clothespins to attach the cards to a string stretched across your room.

Encourage the students to check their work using their Bibles, the maze, and any other resources you have in your classroom.

Life Focus

- ♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Materials

Resources Sheets 1, 6, 7; Bibles



Teaching Tip

When you ask preteens to quickly look up Scriptures in their Bibles, be sure to tell them that this can be done without tearing pages of their Bibles. Always model and teach respect for God's Word.

Materials

Resources Sheets 2 and 4, index cards prepared in advance



Life Focus

- ♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Make It Real (15 minutes)

- Step 3** • Use one of the following activities to help your students identify ways they can show thankfulness to God by showing love to others.

Materials

Resources CD Track #
“Helping Hand”, CD
player



Materials

photocopies of
reproducible page 96,
pencils, *Activities* for
Lesson 13, markers or
colored pencils



Note

You might want to plan another time to meet with students to transfer the logos onto T-shirts. If you have a scanner and color printer, you can probably scan, enhance, and print out the designs on special transfer paper. The designs can then be ironed onto the T-shirts.

Quick Step Helping Hand

Play the “Helping Hand” skit from the *Resources* CD. Encourage your students to listen for the ways that Melissa helped others.

- **What talent or ability did Melissa use to help the mother in this story?** (the ability to get along with children)
- **What resource did Melissa use to help the mother?** (Melissa used the money she had left from buying groceries.) **Do you think Melissa made the right decision when she did this?** (Melissa is to be commended for her giving spirit. She makes the decision better when she offers to pay back the money that was really her father’s change.)
- **Do you think Melissa made a good choice when she helped the lady with her children?** (Melissa was showing kindness, but she should have let her family know sooner why she would be late.)
- **How do Melissa’s actions demonstrate her thankfulness to God?** (Melissa’s unselfishness shows that she is not taking for granted the resources and abilities God has given to her.)
- **How can you use your resources and abilities to demonstrate love for God?**

Let’s make some specific plans now to ♥ show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Option Design It!

Distribute photocopies of reproducible page 96. Down the left side of the page is a list of categories. Explain that you will call out a consonant (B, C, D, F, G, H, L, M, N, P, R, S, or T). Students should list for each category one word or phrase that begins with that letter. Have students read aloud their responses. This will help preteens think about various ways they can serve others.

In Acts 9:36, Dorcas is referred to as a disciple, which implies that she was devoted to doing the Lord’s work. Dorcas was remembered by many people for the work that she did.

Direct students’ attention to “Design It!” in their activity leaflets. Students should design T-shirt logos that would inspire those who see the shirts to help others as Dorcas did. Students who are artistic can be encouraged to illustrate their logos.

- **How do a person’s deeds reflect his love for God?** (What we do for others shows God how much we appreciate what He has done for us.)

Let’s make some specific plans now to ♥ show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Live It Out (15 minutes)

Life Focus

♥ Show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Step 4 • Use one of the following activities to help your students show thankfulness to God by loving others.

Quick Step Encouragement

We can ♥ show thankfulness to God by using our talents and resources to love and help other people. Some people have physical needs that must be met. Others have emotional needs that can be helped by encouraging words. Everyone needs to know about God's love.

Today we are going to express our thanks to God by taking some time to encourage other people. Ask students to think of people they know who need to be encouraged: a leader in the church, an elderly person, a young mother with small children, a parent who has a difficult and tiring job. Have students design postcards or sheets of stationery on which to write notes to the people they have chosen. They should think of Scriptures and phrases of encouragement to use in their designs and messages. Students should send or personally deliver their notes this week.

Option Friendship Rolls

So that we can ♥ show thankfulness to God by loving others, we are going to make gifts of love for some members of our church. Ask students to wash their hands. Open the cans of biscuit dough and distribute one biscuit to each student. Follow the directions for making "Friendship Rolls" as given in today's activity leaflets. After the rolls are baked and cooled, decide how many to give to each person who will receive the rolls. Using the recipe given, your students will make about 48 rolls. Wrap each helping of rolls in plastic wrap and tie it closed with ribbon to create a cheery gift.

As students prepare this project, discuss other actions that could be done to assist the widows or the elderly people of your congregation. Remind students how Dorcas gave her life in ministering to other people. Make plans for delivering the rolls to persons in your congregation who may need an extra "helping" of God's love this week.

Evaluate

A new quarter begins next Sunday. What is one thing that you would like to improve about your teaching? Pray that God will help you focus on making that improvement over the next three months.

Materials

notepaper or blank index cards, colored pencils or markers, (optional: postage stamps, envelopes)



Materials

Activities for Lesson 13, margarine or cooking spray, ½ cup of sugar, 2 tablespoons of cinnamon, 2 cans of biscuit dough, medium-size bowl, two baking sheets, plastic wrap, ribbon



Note

If you do not have time in your class schedule for this group activity, suggest that students do it as a family project at home during the week.

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Celebrate GOALIE Day! The details of this unique holiday can be found in this week's issue.