



Acts 9:32-42

Aim: to discover how we can show that we are friends with Jesus by the things we do with the help of the Holy Spirit



Some stories in the Bible simply leave us in a state of awe and wonder. The stories in Acts chapter 9 are a case in point. Here we read of incredible miracles; of a healing and a raising of the dead. You might expect that of Jesus, but the fascinating fact is that these healings were performed by one of Jesus's friends - Peter! These miracles give evidence of what Jesus predicted. He had said that 'whoever believes in me will also do the work that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.' John 14:12. These stories offer hope and encouragement for all of us because Jesus is able to answer our prayers, too, when we believe in him. When God answers prayer, people notice and find out about Jesus for themselves, just like they did in these stories.

Talking about healing can feel tricky when there are people that we know who haven't been healed. God does still heal today, but from our very human view it can be very hard for us to understand when our prayers are not answered in the way we want. Consider though how we might say deny our children something because we have something even better planned.



Sing Dingle Dangle Scarecrow together:

<https://youtu.be/TXxa2SVIQyE>

Well done. The scarecrows suddenly started to move! In our story today we will hear about a lady who didn't move until something amazing happened.



Let's read about 2 people who really needed help from God. Their names were Aeneas and Dorcas

Read Aeneas and Dorcas, pg. 228-229

Wow! That's amazing! Let's be really still and pretend we can't move. When I say 'Jesus has made you better' let's all get up and jump up and down.

Lay down. (Leave a few seconds) Jesus has made you better! Up we get!



- *I wonder where Aeneas went when he could walk*
- *I wonder how Dorcas's friends felt when they thought Dorcas had gone*
- *I wonder what Dorcas's friends thought when they saw Dorcas was okay again*



Dorcas lived out her faith by doing things for others. Ask everyone to suggest different ways that we can help those around us. Agree which ones could be done by someone on their own and which ones the group could do together and make some plans on how to achieve that.

Put together a pile of clothes and encourage everyone to act out the story together and holding up the clothes for Peter to see when he arrives in Lydda.

Ask people to use their devices to find out how far Lydda was from Joppa and work out how long it took Peter to get there

Pray for people in your community that are unwell and need healing



- Role play. Create some kind of sickbay. Maybe provide bandages or plasters and cloaks. Encourage the children to re enact the healings.
 - Make peg or lolly stick puppets by drawing faces on the top and wrapping the main part in little squares of fabric for cloaks. Encourage everyone to act out the stories with their little puppets
 - Card game. Visit the Jesus Without Languages website for free printouts of matching cards for the Dorcas story and lots of accompanying ideas of how to use them with young children. <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/tabitha-dorcas-acts-9-play-make/>
 - Print the t-shirt outline below and provide coloured paper or stickers to decorate them with



Let's practice a sign for 'believe'

Point an index finger to your temple and make a tiny circle then bring your hand down to make a chopping motion on the other open palm. Practice a few times together.

Dear lord Jesus,

We believe in you

We believe that you can help us

Please help us today with ... (ask everyone to make suggestions)

We believe in you

We believe that you can help us

Amen (Roll arms upwards for a slow loud 'amen').



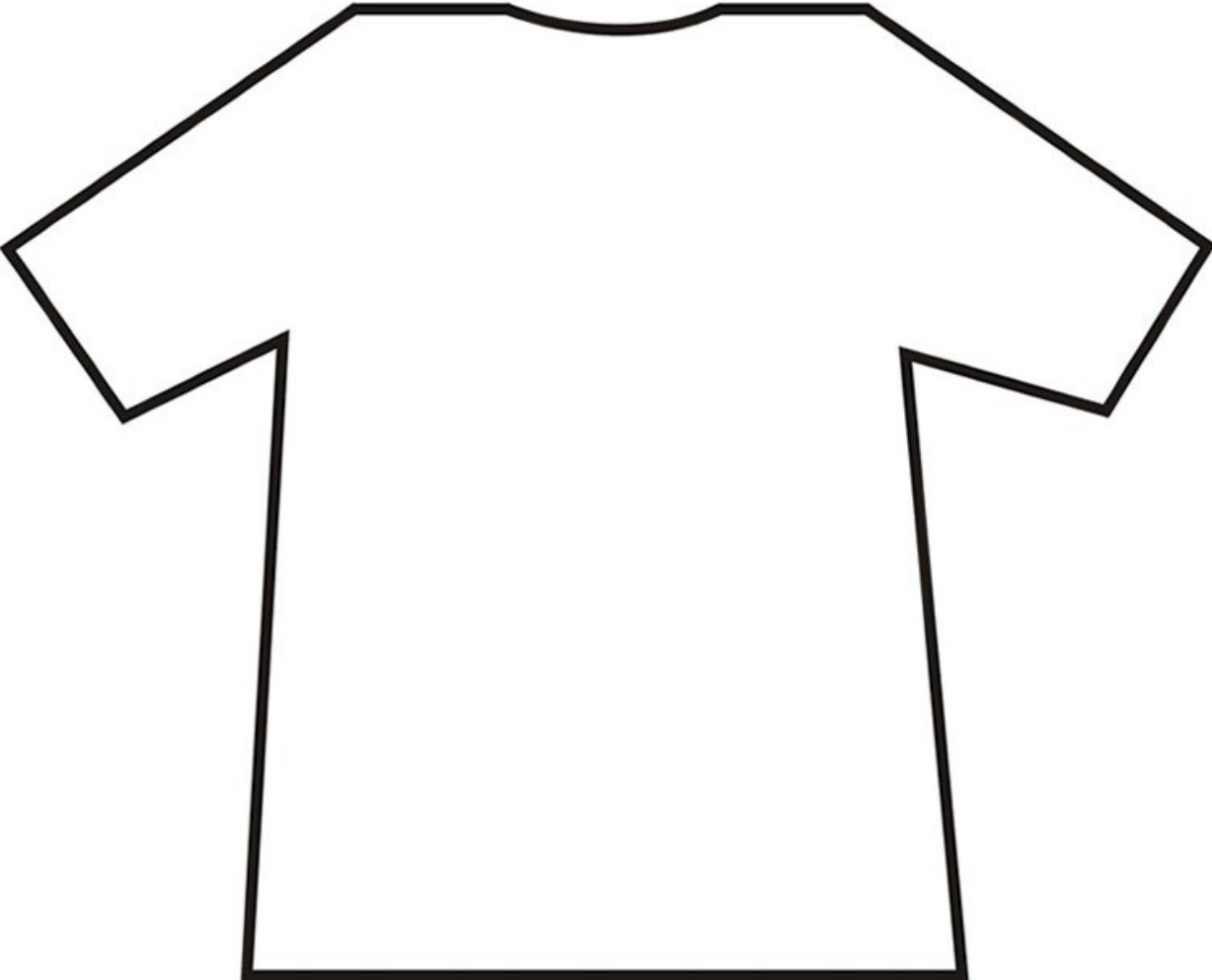
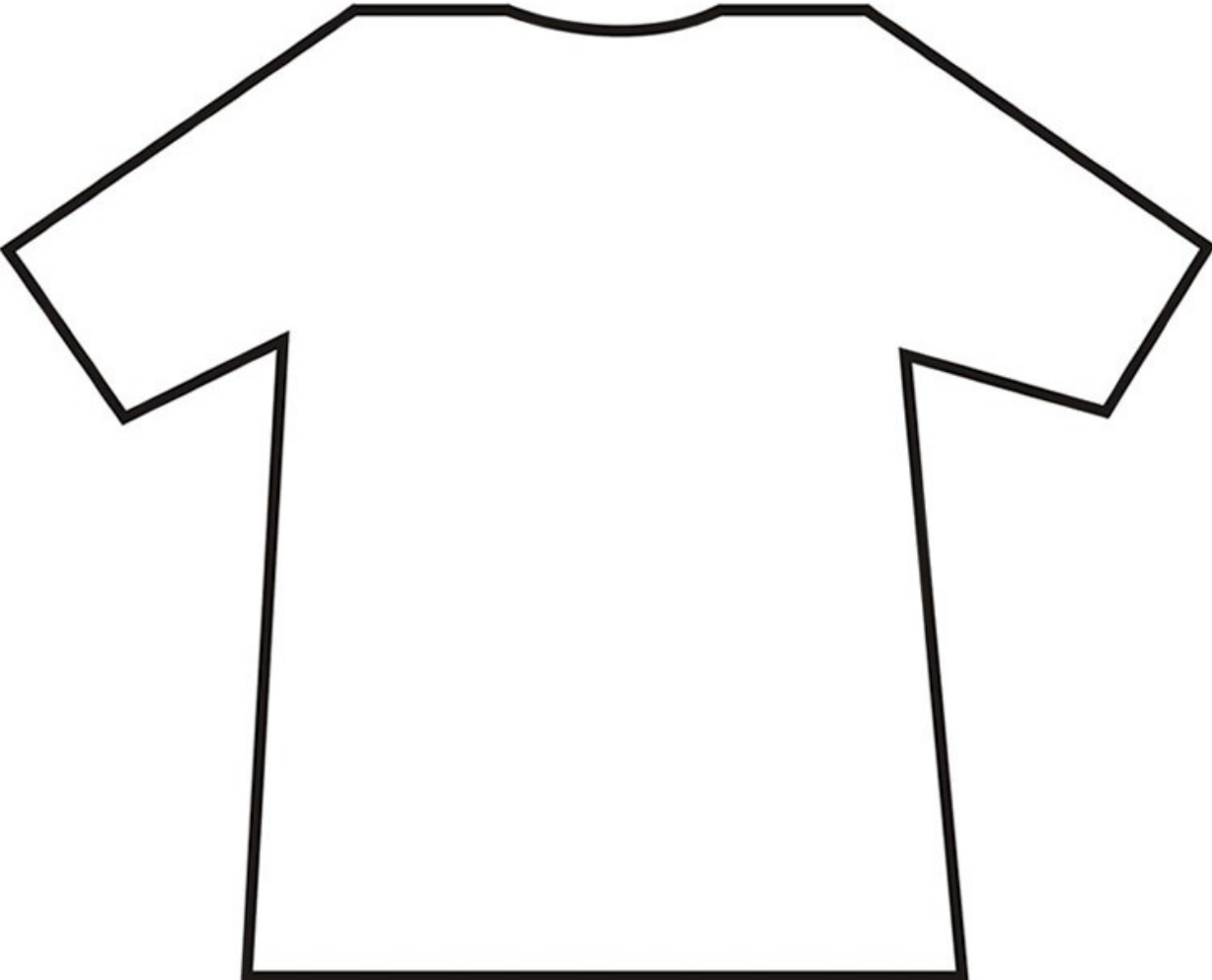
- Our God is a Great Big God
- I thank you Lord: <https://youtu.be/7cYIMZa1QmU>
- Nothing's too big, big, big
- Who's the king of the jungle?



Watch a video with the story: <https://youtu.be/J0u JKocBhU>

Prayer. Give everyone a copy of the prayer from today to take home (see below).

Encourage them to make their own requests and notice when those prayers are answered.



Dear lord Jesus,
We **believe** in you
We **believe** that you
can help us



Please help us with ...
(add your requests)
Thank you.

Amen (Roll arms upwards for a
slow loud 'amen').

The sign for 'believe' Point an
index finger to your temple and
make a tiny circle then bring
your hand down to make a chop-
ping motion on the other open
palm.

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