

THE ISLAND

LEADER Emma	DATE (am) 05 July 2009
HELPERS Barbara, Glenda, Violet	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER Connor	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Fruit of the Spirit / Kindness – Dorcas sews for Joppa!
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 5:16-26; Acts 9:36-42
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit helps me to be kind

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God has gifted each of us in different ways to help us show kindness to the people around us.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit living in us makes us more like Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Treasure chest with Egyptian sand picture inside (from last week's activity)
- ✓ Fruit tree picture (the same one you used at the beginning of the series)
- ✓ Basket of fruit with at least nine pieces of fruit (real or artificial)
- ✓ Slide showing the word 'kindness'
- ✓ Items of clothing and sewing accessories hung/placed around the room before the session begins, e.g. a shirt on a hanger hanging from the window latch; a dress or skirt on a hanger hanging from the door frame; a small pile of coats and scarves folded and placed in the corner of the room; a basket or box of some loose fabric; a sewing box including spools of thread, needles, scissors, thimbles, measuring tape, etc.
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ *Optional:* Band aid sticking plasters
- ✓ Name tag box

4. Tell the story

Before the session begins, you should have placed a few items of clothing around your room to illustrate the story, e.g. a shirt on a hanger hanging from the window latch; a dress or skirt on a hanger hanging from the door frame; a small pile of coats and scarves folded and placed in the corner of the room; a basket or box of some loose fabric; a sewing box including spools of thread, needles, scissors, thimbles, measuring tape, etc.

Items of clothing, basket of fabrics, sewing box with accessories hung/placed around the room

Her name was Dorcas. Dorcas lived at the seaside, in a town called Joppa. She was a lovely Christian lady; she loved the Lord and she had a wonderful way of showing God's love to her neighbours in Joppa. You see, Dorcas loved to sew. Her little house in Joppa was full of clothes that she had made. *(Walk to each item, point and feel the fabric, lift things from the sewing box, etc. as you say the following ...)* There were shirts hanging by the windows; there were dresses and skirts hanging from the walls; and there were coats and scarves folded neatly in piles in the corners of her room. Dorcas had a big basket of fabrics of many different colours. And she had a box full of threads of lots of different colours too. Everywhere she looked, Dorcas could see clothes. Her house was like a clothes factory!

Dorcas was busy all the time making clothes. And remember, back in those days, there were no sewing machines! I'm sure Dorcas would have *loved* to have had a sewing machine! Instead, she had to make all the clothes by sewing them together with a needle and thread. Each piece of clothing – each shirt, each dress, each coat – took a long time to make. But Dorcas enjoyed sewing. She made these clothes to give to people who didn't have much money. Can you imagine how surprised and delighted the poor people of Joppa were when they received a present from Dorcas? Some of those people would never have enough money to buy new clothes from the shops, so a new shirt or coat from Dorcas would have made them very happy indeed.

Everyone knew Dorcas. She was the lady who sewed. The lady who made clothes. The lady who lived in the little clothes factory. The lady who helped you if you didn't have much money. The lady who was kind to everyone. Dorcas was always busy doing good and being kind. She really cared for the people who lived in her town.

One day, Dorcas got sick. Really sick. And she quickly got worse. There was no one or nothing that could help her. Dorcas died.

Her friends were devastated. They couldn't believe it. Dorcas was such an important person in the group of Christians in Joppa. They loved her so much because she had been so kind to them and had helped them. Her friends laid her body on a bed in one of the rooms upstairs in the little house. They stood around Dorcas' body, crying and feeling very sorry for this great lady they had just lost.

The believers – the Christians – in Joppa, who were so sad about the death of their good friend Dorcas, heard some news. Peter, one of Jesus' friends, was just down the road in the next town. People were talking about Peter. They were saying that he had performed a miracle. The rumours were true. Peter, with the power of God's Holy Spirit inside him, had made a lame man walk! That man hadn't been able to get out of his bed for eight years! And when Peter met him, he

<p>said, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up ...” (Acts 9:34) After eight years with legs that wouldn’t work, this man was healed in the name of Jesus! Could Peter do something for poor Dorcas? That’s the question the Christians in Joppa were asking. They sent two men to the next town to find Peter and quickly bring him back to Joppa, to the little house where Dorcas was lying dead.</p> <p>Peter hurried. He arrived at the little house in Joppa and found the women there, crying. They showed him all the beautiful clothes that Dorcas had made, and told him stories of how kind she had been to so many people in their town. Peter sent them all out of the room. He got down on his knees beside the bed – the bed where Dorcas was lying dead. Peter prayed to God. Then he looked at Dorcas and said, “Get up.” Boys and girls, Dorcas opened her eyes! She looked around her, saw Peter, and sat up on the bed! Peter took her hand and helped her to stand up. Then, he called all the believers back into the room. There Dorcas was, as large as life! Dorcas was alive! The believers were so excited and so thankful to God. God had done <i>another</i> miracle!</p> <p>The story of Dorcas spread all over the town of Joppa, and many people believed and trusted in Jesus when they heard about this great miracle. Peter, Jesus’ friend, stayed in Joppa for some time to help these people learn more about Jesus.</p> <p>5. Explain</p> <p>Dorcas was so special and loved by the believers in Joppa because she spent her time doing good things and helping the poor. She was good at sewing, so she decided to make clothes to help people. Dorcas’ good work really made a difference to the lives of the people in Joppa, people who couldn’t afford to buy new clothes, people who were sick, people who were lonely. Lots of people in Joppa were happy and thankful because Dorcas was so kind.</p> <p>Peter was kind too. When the men were sent to find him, Peter hurried back to Dorcas. Peter loved the Lord and was so filled with the Holy Spirit that God was able to perform miracles through Peter. After Dorcas came back to life, Peter stayed in Joppa. He was kind enough to help the people in Joppa learn more about Jesus, our best friend and Saviour.</p> <p>Dorcas and Peter were both good at different things, but both of them used their gifts to help the people around them. Peter was good at teaching people about Jesus. Dorcas was good at sewing clothes. Think about what you’re good at. God has given each of us something that we can use to help and be kind to others.</p> <p>Let’s put the sewing box into the treasure chest. We’ll take it out next week and see how much you remember about the kind lady from Joppa called Dorcas.</p>	<p><i>Treasure chest</i> <i>Sewing box</i></p>
<p>C. Prayer Net</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that’s how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards 	<p>You’ll need ... <i>Net (with last week’s prayer cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>

<p>you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about we need to tell God about those things. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ask:</i> The believers in Joppa were thankful when God answered their prayers and Dorcas came back to them. Is there something you would like to thank God for today? - <i>Ask:</i> When Dorcas died, her friends were sad and worried about how the people would manage without her. Are you worried about anything today? Tell God about it and ask Him to give you His peace. - <i>Ask:</i> When Dorcas got sick, there was no medicine or doctor to make her better. Only God was able to bring her life back again. Do you know someone who is sick? Why not pray for them and let God look after them. <p>5. After asking each of the above questions, ask kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. <i>Optional idea:</i> the names of people who are sick could be written on band aid sticking plasters and dropped into the net.</p> <p>6. <i>Explain:</i> The Christians in Joppa got together and prayed for Dorcas. When Peter arrived, he prayed and asked God to bring Dorcas back to life and make her better again. God did a miracle. Dorcas woke up and was able to go back to making clothes for the poor people in her town. We still get together these days to pray for people who are sick. Sometimes they get better and sometimes they don't. Because God <i>always</i> has a plan. He is <i>always</i> in control. God made Dorcas better again so that many more people would believe in Him. God had a reason for making her better. Sometimes people don't get better. Sometimes they even die. We are very sad when people we know and love get sick and die, but remember that God is <i>still</i> in control. He can make good things happen even when it seems like things couldn't get any worse. We just have to learn to trust Him and be patient because He makes everything work together for good.</p> <p>7. Close in prayer.</p>	<p><i>Optional: band aid sticking plasters</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets)</p> <p>1. Ask kids to put their mats away.</p> <p>2. <i>Recap:</i> Dorcas was famous for her kindness. She was able to be kind because she loved the Lord and had the Holy Spirit living inside her. When we believe and trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit – God's power – lives in us too, helping us to be ...</p> <p><i>Loving ... like Mary, who poured her very expensive perfume over Jesus' feet;</i></p>	<p>7 minutes</p> <p>You'll need ...</p>
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<p><i>Joyful</i> ... like the dad who threw a great party for his lost son who came back home;</p> <p><i>Peaceful</i> ... like Paul and Silas when they were thrown into prison;</p> <p><i>Patient</i> ...like Joseph, who had to wait a long, long time to see and understand God's plan for his life;</p> <p>and <i>kind</i> ... like Dorcas, who did something she was good at to help people who were poor and in need in her town.</p> <p>3. Sing a closing song. (<i>Supernatural</i>)</p> <p>4. This week, think about what you are good at. How could you use what you are good at to help and be kind to someone? Remind kids to come back this evening.</p> <p>5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>	<p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

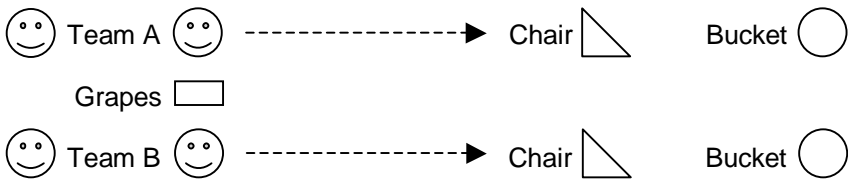
LEADER	DATE (pm) 05 July 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse through games with grapes and sheets.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making blankets for kids at the local children's home.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Slide – Galatians 5:22 (first, second, third, fourth and fifth fruit)
 - Pre-made card bunch of grapes labelled 'kindness' (which you will later fix to your display. See photos below.)
 - Container of loose grapes
 - Two chairs
 - Two buckets
 - Watch / Stop clock
 - Two sets of unfolded sheets or blankets (try to bring enough for one per child; have an equal number in each pile)
 - Two large laundry baskets or boxes
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Pre-made fleece blanket (leave a few pieces of fringe untied for the demonstration) (see Activity section below for instructions and photos)
 - Pre-cut pieces of fleece fabric (around 40x30cm each. Cut up a few fleece blankets you can find easily in discount stores and the home departments of supermarkets. Along the two short sides of the fleece, make a fringe by making scissor cuts 6-7cm into the blanket, 2-2.5cm apart.)
 - Lengths of cord and/or ribbon (at least one per child, enough for kids to have a choice)
 - Pre-printed postcards (print and cut small cards with the words, 'With love from'. Template included in materials.)
 - Colouring pens / pencils
 - Large box or bag to pack the finished blankets
- ✓ Pre-cut small bunches of washed grapes (one per child)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>go to visit someone who's sick, you are most likely to take a bunch of grapes. Healthy, delicious and a very kind present for someone who is not feeling well. I'm going to stick this on the wall a little later.</p> <p>6. Ask kids to put their mats away. Take kids to a large room, e.g. a sports hall. Divide kids into two teams. Have each team line up at one end of your room.</p> <p>7. <i>Explain:</i> We're going to play a game with a bunch of kind grapes. Here is a box of the kind grapes which I will set on the floor between the two team lines. When I say, 'Go!', the first person in each team must pick up a grape from the box, run to the chairs, stop, and throw the grape into your team bucket. Then you run back to the end of your team line and the next person gets a chance to do the same thing. You will have 2 minutes to get as many grapes into your bucket as possible. When the time is up, we will count the grapes in the buckets to see which team has won. You must only lift one grape each time you run!</p> <p>8. Set the box of grapes on the floor in line with the front of each team line. Station an adult helper by the chairs. Have all kids repeat the memory verse once before starting the game. Keeping track with a watch or stop clock, start the game. Play for two minutes. Make sure kids stop at the chairs before throwing their grapes.</p> <p>9. Stop the game after two minutes. Count the grapes in each bucket. Congratulate the winners. Tidy away the grapes, chairs and buckets.</p> <div data-bbox="236 1075 1088 1254">  <p>Team A Team B Chair Chair Bucket Bucket</p> <p>Grapes</p> </div> <p>10. <i>Explain:</i> Stay in your teams. Dorcas had a lot of fabric lying around her house. Before she cut it up into shapes to make clothes, it just looked like big bed sheets. Dorcas needed to keep all her materials neat and tidy, otherwise she wouldn't have been able to find what she needed. Here are two piles of sheets. <i>Dump two untidy, unfolded piles of sheets at a distance from the two team lines.</i> These sheets are not neat and tidy. When I say, 'Go!', one person from each team must run to the pile, take out one sheet of fabric, fold it up as neatly as possible, then set it in the basket. <i>Set two baskets, one for each team, beside the piles of unfolded sheets.</i> Run back to join the end of your team line, and the next person can run to fold another sheet. The first team to have all their sheets folded neatly and piled in the basket is the winner.</p> <p>11. Have all kids repeat the memory verse once before starting the game. Play the game, helping kids to fold the sheets as you see fit. Congratulate the winning team.</p> <p>12. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. Take kids back to your room.</p>	<p><i>Container of loose grapes</i></p> <p><i>Two chairs, each set at a distance from each team line</i></p> <p><i>Two buckets, each set about 2 metres from each chair</i></p> <p><i>Watch / Stop clock</i></p> <p><i>Two sets of unfolded sheets</i></p> <p><i>Two large laundry baskets or boxes</i></p>
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<p>now.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Give each child a pre-printed postcard. Make your own postcard by signing your name and decorating it. Provide colouring pens or pencils for kids to sign their names on their postcards. 11. Using your own postcard and folded/rolled blanket, show kids how to tuck their postcards beneath the ribbon or cord tied around their blankets. 12. Have each child place their finished blanket into a large box or bag. Assure kids that you will deliver their blankets to the local children's home / shelter during the week. 	<p><i>Pre-printed postcards</i> <i>Colouring pens / pencils</i></p> <p><i>Large box or bag</i></p>
<p>H. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (Supernatural) 2. Close in prayer. 3. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more altogether. Give each child a small pre-cut bunch of grapes to remind them that the fruit of the Spirit is kindness. Remind kids that each one of us can do something to be kind to the people around us. Challenge kids to do at least one kind thing every day this week. 4. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Pre-cut small bunches of washed grapes</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>





