

Following Godly Examples Party



It's Party Time!

This party reinforces the unit theme of following godly examples and can be held at any time desired during Unit 2.

Preparation

Add the party information to the invitation below; then copy an invitation for each child. Prepare a box, completely covered, with a slit cut into the top large enough to fit an index card into it. Write in colorful letters "Good Bible Examples" on the side of the box. Provide a stack of index cards and some markers beside the box.

Have some costumes and props available for any children who are unable to bring their own. Bring graham crackers, a plastic knife, some white frosting, various toppings (chocolate chips, sprinkles, etc.), and punch for the refreshments. Provide small paper plates, napkins, and paper cups.

Party Warmer

As the children arrive, have them secretly write the name of the character they are dressed as on an index card and place it into the box. Instruct them not to let the other children know who they are pretending to be. If any child does not have a costume, offer him one, and have him write the name on the card in the same manner.

Let's Guess!

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Stand in the center of the circle with the "Good Examples" box. Draw a card out of the box, and ask the children to look around and guess who is pretending to be the character on the card. Do this until all of the cards are gone.

"Good Example" Says...

Choose a child to be the leader. Instruct the children to play as they would play "Simon Says," but using their own character's name instead. For example, a child dressed as David might say, "David says, pretend to play the harp." The children would then pretend to play a harp. If, however, he says simply, "Play the harp," the children must ignore the instruction.

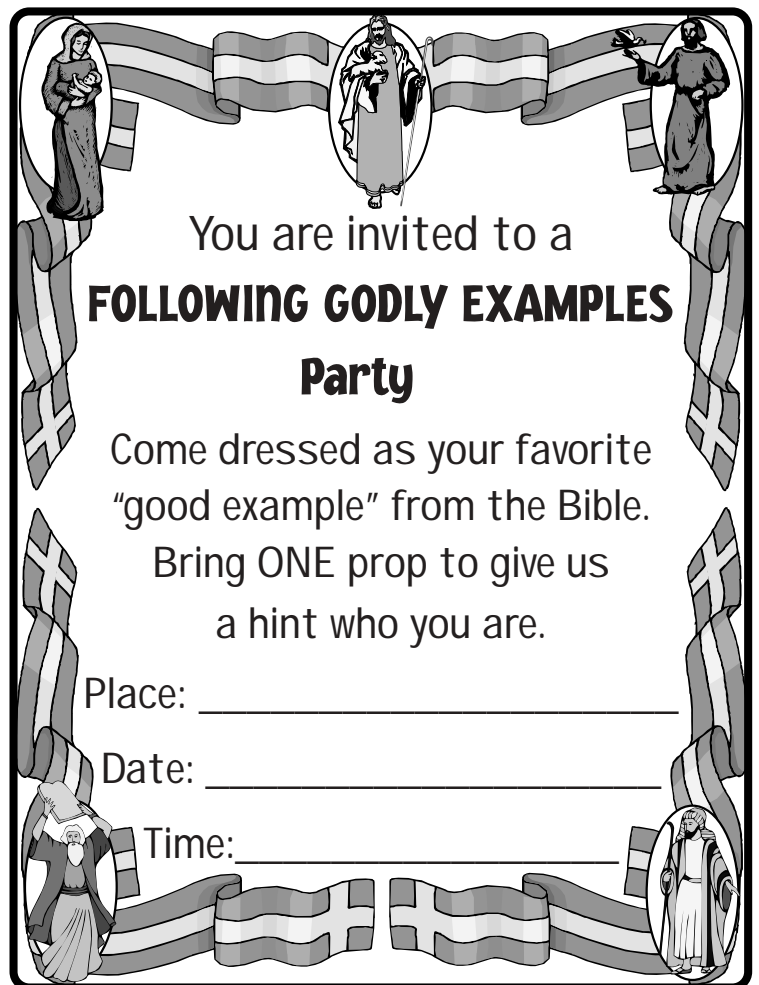
Refreshments

Give each child a graham cracker, a plastic knife, some

- white frosting, and various toppings (chocolate chips, sprinkles, etc.). Say, **Follow my example to make your snack.**
- Show the children how to spread frosting on the graham cracker and then decorate it as they please. Serve punch to drink. As the children eat, talk about the Bible examples they have learned about this quarter. Emphasize that these Bible examples obeyed God (even though at times they failed), and God wants us to obey Him, too.

Devotion

- Say, **You have all dressed as good Bible examples for us to follow, but the most important example to follow is Jesus Christ.** Read Philippians 2:5-11, and explain how Jesus, coming down to earth as a humble servant, even willing to die for our sins, was the greatest example of all. Invite any children who wish to become members of God's family to meet with you after the party. Close in prayer.



Reproducible Party Invitation

6. Following Dorcas' Hardworking Example

Objective



Each child will learn from Dorcas of the first century A.D. that he or she has a special job to do for God, now and in the future.

Scripture



Acts 9:36-42

(Dorcas sews for others)

Memory Verse



I Corinthians 15:58

Planning Tips



Print the words from the Bible memory verse on index cards, one word and the Scripture reference per card. Punch an even number of holes around the edges of a large paper plate, one per child, to make sewing cards. Cut a 4-inch diameter hole in the center of each plate. Ask two or three church members to speak during the Second Meeting of the Week.



What You'll Need

- Bible Journeys* for Meeting 6 for each child
- All-Stars Bible News* for Meeting 6 for each child

GETTING STARTED

- Paper sack of props (paintbrush, pencil, Bible, chalk, toy animal, ball, etc.)

BIBLE LESSON

- Baldy Eagle Puppet*
- Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 3
- Blanket, table, and chairs
- Bibles and pencils
- Chalkboard or whiteboard
- Prepared index cards

BIBLE APPLICATION

- Pencils

BIBLE LEARNING

- Glue sticks
- Prepared paper plate for each child
- Scissors, cotton balls, and yarn
- Cooking or baby oil, newspapers
- Paper towels for cleanup

What You'll Need OPTIONS

- All-Stars Bible News* for Meeting 6 for each child
- Student Award Book* for each child
- All the Best Songs for Kids* Songbook & Early Elementary Cass. or CDs
Opt. Early Childhood Cass. or CD
- Cassette or CD player

- Archie Bluebird* and *Baldy Eagle Puppets*

- Marked Bibles, table or chair
- Roll of newsprint or butcher paper
- Pencils, chalkboard or whiteboard
- Crayons or washable markers, tape
- Bible memory verse cards from the First Meeting of the Week
- Craft: Epsom salts, jars with lids, scissors, food coloring, ribbon, pens or markers, resealable plastic bags, construction paper, fabric circles (opt.)
- Game: empty thread spools, cards and My Serving Game Board from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 3
- Refreshments: cookies, juice, paper cups, napkins

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP
1

Getting Started

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

- Prayer Time**

Ask, **Have you ever thought about what you'd like to do when you grow up?** Pause for responses. **Let's kneel by our chairs and pray. First we'll pray quietly about what we'd like to do. Then I'll pray. Pray, Jesus, help us love others by serving them. In Your name we pray, amen.**

- Theme Introduction**

Say, **Let's play a game about what people do.** Bring out a sack filled with props that workers might use. Examples: an empty aspirin bottle (nurse or doctor); paintbrush (artist); pencil (writer); Bible (pastor or missionary); chalk

Second Meeting Options

1. Getting Started OPTIONS

- Song Time**

Sing **GOD CALLS US; CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS** (optional); and **ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS** from *All the Best Songs for Kids*. Optional songs are on the Early Childhood cassette and CD.

- Theme Introduction**

Say, **We have some special guests today. You know them, and they have worked very hard to serve you.** Invite two or three church

STEP 1 Getting Started (Cont.)

(teacher); screwdriver (construction worker); measuring spoons (cook); hairbrush (hairstylist); child's toy (babysitter); ball (athlete); toothbrush (dentist or hygienist); and a toy animal (veterinarian). Make sure thread (seamstress) is one of the items. Think of more items as needed. Be sure to include one item for each child.

Ask one child at a time to touch an item inside the bag and guess what it is. Squeeze the opening shut so they can't see inside. When they have guessed, let them pull it out. Ask, **What kind of a worker would use this item? How could that worker serve God?** Pause for responses. Then ask the child to set the item along the wall somewhere. When all children have chosen an item ask, **Who pulled out the thread?** If no one chose the thread, ask for a volunteer to play Dorcas. Say, **Let's tell the story of a woman who was loved by everybody because she used her skills to serve them, as she served God.**

STEP 2 Bible Lesson (Allow 15-20 minutes)



Explore the Bible Lesson

Ask the children to take their chairs and sit against the wall with the object that they pulled out of the sack. Tape the sign that says "Dorcas' Sewing" from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 3 to the wall above where Dorcas is sitting. Ask for a volunteer to put his prop back in the sack and play Peter. He should stay seated at a table.

Give the doctor the blanket. Give the *Baldy Eagle Puppet* a chair and announce that he is a messenger.

DORCAS SEWS FOR OTHERS (Acts 9:36-42)

The Busy City

Let's pretend our room has turned into the busy city of Joppa. Joppa is by the ocean, so we have warm breezes and waves splashing on the shore. Big ships come and go, and there's a busy market where you work your trades. If people didn't have much money, they would trade to get what they needed. (Suggest that the baker might need a new table, so the carpenter can have him bake some bread for him in return. Let the children act out their professions.) A woman named Dorcas liked to sew. She believed in Jesus. Sometimes people who couldn't pay would bring her clothes to fix. And sometimes they wouldn't have anything to trade. Do you think Dorcas fixed the clothes anyway? Yes, she did, and she did it cheerfully. She often made clothes for widows and poor people. The Bible says she was full of good deeds.

Do you know anyone who cheerfully helps other people? (Pause for responses.) Do you cheerfully help people? How about helping around the house? Do you think your family might be surprised if you cheerfully did something you don't usually do? They might do something nice for you, too. Doesn't that sound better than nagging and yelling? Raise your hands if you'll try that this week.

1. Getting Started (Cont.) OPTIONS

members to talk briefly to your class about how they use their talents and interests to serve others. Ideas might include teens or adults who have gone on missionary trips, your church organist or pianist, your church custodian, or someone who works with needy people or food banks. You may have others in your congregation who would be happy to talk to your children for a few minutes. Ask your pastor if he may know of others who could visit your class. Have your guests explain a little about what they do and how they got started serving God and others. Let the children ask two or three questions per guest.

When you are finished, thank your guests, and let your children applaud and thank them, too. Say, **You're never too little to serve God. Let's read in the Bible about a woman who was loved by everyone because of her helping heart.**

2. Bible Lesson OPTIONS



Explore the Bible Lesson

Let *Archie Bluebird* play Dorcas and *Baldy Eagle* play Peter, with the children reading the Bible verses and giving directions to them. Have older children manipulate the puppets. Ask five good readers to read the verses from the Bible. The first reader should read Acts 9:36. The children may pretend to bring clothing to Archie. Children may take turns pretending to pay or shrugging when they can't pay. Archie can nod and hand out clothing and hugs.

Ask another reader to read verses 37-38. Let the children direct Archie to get sick, perhaps lying down on a table or chair. Two children can be dispatched to bring Baldy Eagle, who plays Peter. Ask another child to read verse 39. The children can pretend to show Baldy all the clothing Archie has made for them. Let another reader read verses 40-41, and let the children direct Baldy to kneel by Archie and tell him what to pray. Baldy can say, "Dorcas, arise!" Children may tell Archie and Baldy how to follow what the Bible says happens as Archie is raised to life again. Ask the last reader to read verse 42.

Children may wish to join the play as they pretend to tell each other what happened to Archie.

Review the Bible Lesson

Cut a large strip of paper from a roll of newsprint or butcher paper. Tape it to an empty wall at a height easy for your students to reach. If your walls are full, lay the paper on the floor or table, or hang it in a hallway to work on, if noise is not a problem. Provide washable markers or crayons, and let the children construct a mural of Dorcas' story. Children may work on different sections: perhaps a harbor and buildings representing Joppa, Dorcas sitting and sewing, people lined up with clothing and material in their arms, etc. Print the memory verse across the top of the mural. You may wish to extend this project

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP 2

Bible Lesson (Cont.)



Dorcas Gets Sick

One day, Dorcas felt sick. (Ask Dorcas to sniffle and cough.) The doctor brought her some medicine (instruct the actor), but it didn't help. The pastor came and prayed with her, and read the Bible to cheer her up. (Each child should come one at a time and pretend to help Dorcas.) The cook came and fixed her some food. All the people she had helped with her sewing came to visit her. But nobody could help her. Finally, the doctor came back and helped her lie down on a blanket. Back then, they didn't have the good medicines we do now. When Dorcas died, everyone gathered around and cried. Why did they love Dorcas so much? (Pause for responses.)

The Christians knew that the disciples were performing miracles in Jesus' name. They sent two men to the nearby city of Lydda to get Peter. Can anyone tell me who Peter was? (Pause for responses. Have Baldy Eagle choose a helper, then fly around the room with the helper and back to Dorcas, bringing Peter.)

Dorcas Is Alive Again

They took Peter to the room where Dorcas was and showed him the clothing Dorcas had made for them. (Ask some of the children to tell what they traded for Dorcas' service. The children may return to their chairs.) Peter knelt beside Dorcas and prayed. He said, "Dorcas, arise!" Dorcas opened her eyes and sat up! Peter took her hand and helped her stand up. Everybody cheered and hugged her.

(Children may act out the story as you tell it. Then have them put their props in the sack and sit down.) How do you think Dorcas felt when she came back to life? Do you think the Christians kept it a secret? No, they didn't. The Bible says that the whole city of Joppa learned about it. Can anyone guess what happened when they found out? The Bible tells us that many people then believed in God because of Dorcas. God wants us to be like Dorcas and help others, too.

Study the Bible Lesson

Hand out pencils and the *Bible Journeys Activity Sheets* for Meeting 6 to the children. Have them look at the first page. Read the directions aloud. If you have younger children in your group, have the children work in pairs to decode the message, (Answer: *By serving others Dorcas served God!*) Say, **God had a special job for Dorcas. God has special things for us to do, too.**

Read the Bible story from the *All-Stars Bible News Take-Home Papers* for Meeting 6. Remind the children to read the Bible story again at home.

Bible Memory Verse

I Corinthians 15:58 — *"Be ye ... always abounding in the work of the Lord."* (KJV)

"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord." (NIV)

Before the meeting, print the words from the Bible memory verse on index cards, one word and the Scripture reference per card. Write the verse on the board. Give one prepared word card to each child.

Second Meeting Options

2. Bible Lesson (Cont.) OPTIONS



over two meetings, or let the children come in before and after class to finish.

You may want to read the Bible story from *All-Stars Bible News Take-Home Papers* for Meeting 6. The children may complete the activities on pages 2-3 of this week's *All-Stars Bible News* at this time. (Answer: *Dorcas helped THE POOR.*)

T	R	S	D	O	R	C	A	S	G
H	H	L	P	E	D	B	T	Q	I
O	E	Z	P	W	I	D	O	W	D
O	L	E	V	E	R	Y	O	N	E
R	P	U	B	O	O	M	P	Y	N
E	E	D	Q	T	O	Y	E	Z	E
V	D	X	O	E	M	E	T	Y	P
A	H	T	I	B	A	T	E	N	O
L	O	N	O	T	H	E	R	S	A
A	F	W	S	N	E	V	I	L	A

Review the Memory Verse

Hand out the prepared verse cards from the First Meeting of the Week. Write the verse on the board, and let the children arrange themselves in order in the front of the room. Erase the verse, and ask all the children to close their eyes. Tap one child on the shoulder from behind. He or she will hide his card, and the rest of the children will open their eyes and try to guess the missing word. Repeat as time allows. If your class is large, change cardholders from time to time so everyone has a turn.

3. Bible Application OPTIONS



Apply the Lesson

Hand out pencils and *All-Stars Bible News* for Meeting 6, briefly mentioning features from the Bible story, the Bible activities, and the at home project. The children may complete the activities on pages 1 (for younger children) and 4 (for older children) at this time. Encourage the children to read the Bible story and do the remaining activities at home this week. (Page 1 answers: *1-hands, 2-ears, 3 across-mind, 3 down-mouth, 4-heart, 5-eyes, 6-feet, 7-Jesus; Page 4 answers: 1-do the work of the Lord, 2-do good works and help the poor, 3-pray, 4-give to others in secret, 5-glorify God.*)

Bible Craft

Bring Epsom salts, small clear jars with lids (such as pimento or baby food jars), ribbon, food coloring, scissors, construction paper, resealable plastic bags, (optional 4-inch fabric circles) and pens or markers. Fill a resealable bag half full of Epsom salts and add several drops of food coloring. Give a bag to each child to knead and shake until the salt is colored. Let the child fill a clear jar with two or three colors of salt, add the lid, and tie a ribbon around it. (Optional: Cover the lid with a fabric circle. Then tie the ribbon around it to hold the fabric in place.) Have each child make a card of appreciation to give with the bath salts to his mom or another special person.

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week

STEP
2

Bible Lesson (Cont.)



Children with word cards should come to the front of the room. If your class is large, ask the remaining children to arrange the children in order. If your class is small, the children can arrange themselves in the proper order, or arrange the cards in order on the table or floor. The children may exchange cards and repeat, if time allows.

STEP
3

Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)



Apply the Lesson

Have the children turn to page 2 of *Bible Journeys* for Meeting 6. Make sure they have pencils. Say, **Dorcas helped others by sewing.** Ask for volunteers to tell something that they can do to help others. Say, **Whatever you like to do or are good at doing, you can use that skill to serve other people.**

Have the children trace a path through the maze to help the boy pick up his socks and take them to the laundry basket. All the socks must be picked up without crossing any lines. See the maze answer in the second meeting. Talk about how the children can help at home.

STEP
4

Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)



Bible Craft

Have the children turn to page 3 of *Bible Journeys* for Meeting 6. Set out scissors, cotton balls, oil, and glue sticks. Give each child a paper plate with a 4-inch hole cut in the center and an even number of holes punched around the plate rim. Have each child cut out the memory verse and the picture of Dorcas and glue the picture in the center of the plate to cover the hole. Help the child cut a three-foot length of yarn and weave the yarn through the holes in the plate, starting at the top. Tie the yarn ends in a bow to make a hanger. Glue the memory verse onto the plate. Then have the child dab a thin layer of oil on the back of the picture. Hang the suncatchers or place them on newspaper to dry, since the oil may stain furniture. Let older children help the younger ones. As they work, help them think of people they could serve for Jesus right now, and what they could do to help them. Say, **Hang up your suncatcher when you get home, and tell everyone who Dorcas was and how God did a great miracle for her.**



Closing Prayer

(Allow 5-10 minutes)



Say, **One of the best things you can do for someone else is to pray for him or her. And some of the best prayers around are kids!** Have the children exchange craft projects with their neighbor. Say, **Let's close our eyes and pray quietly for the person whose craft you are holding.** Give the children time to pray, then close by asking God to help everyone think of ways to serve others this week. Return the crafts to their owners. Hand out *All-Stars Bible News* and *Bible Journeys* to each child.

Second Meeting Options

4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

My Serving Game

Bring a small empty thread spool for each child for game markers. Before the meeting, cut out the cards and the game board from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 3. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in the middle of the table or floor. Let the children play the Serving Game. Each child takes a colored card and moves to the closest space of that color on the game board. Help the child read and follow the directions on the space he lands on. Talk about things the children could do to serve others.

Refreshments

Ask the children to line up by birthdays, with the youngest in the back of the line and the oldest in the front. Give a cookie and a cup of juice to the first child in line. Have him carry it to the last child in line and set the snack on the table for her, help her sit down, and slide her chair up to the table. Repeat until all the children have been served. When they are finished, ask the youngest child to throw his trash away, then collect the trash from the child who had served him and throw it away, too. Say, **God wants us to serve others however we can.**

Leader Tip

Bible Background

Dorcas (or Tabitha, as she was also known) was a Christian woman from Joppa (an ancient seaport on the Mediterranean Sea) who was well known for helping the poor (Acts 9:36-43). Some think she was either a wealthy woman or had connections to the wealthy. She might have been one of the people whom Philip the Evangelist led to faith, for he proclaimed the Gospel in the region of Joppa (Acts 8:40). When Dorcas became ill and died, friends sent for Peter. He agreed to come to Joppa, and the Lord used him to restore Dorcas to life. God used this event to bring many people to faith in Him (Acts 9:37-42).

Maze Answer from the First Meeting of the Week

