

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level K • Unit 7 • Week 3

### DORCAS—SERVICE TO OTHERS

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach through the story of Dorcas that God wants us to serve others.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Supplies: Cardboard or cardstock  
Hole puncher  
Yarn

Prepare: Make sewing cards out of cardboard or cardstock in the shape of a T-shirt. Punch holes along the border of the T-shirt shape. Cut yarn into long pieces (make sure it's long enough for sewing around the edge of the T-shirt sewing card).

Do: Give each child a sewing card and a piece of yarn (tape end of yarn to make it stiff). Children can "sew" from hole to hole until it is complete.

**BIBLE LESSON:**

Ask: Isn't it nice to make gifts for someone you care about and love? Today we'll be making something you can give to someone. Who do you want to give your gift to?

What does the Bible say about serving and giving to others?

Say: Listen to this story about a lady who believed that it was better to give than to receive. Her name was Dorcas (Acts 9:36-41). She was a wonderful woman and she lived in the city of Joppa. She was a very kind and helpful person. She loved to sew and make clothes for those in need. She was happiest when she was sewing for others. Anytime someone needed a shirt or dress, she gladly made it for him or her. She was eager to serve.

If a girl or boy outgrew his clothing, she produced the next size. Wintertime came and she furnished coats to those in need. She was always thinking of and caring for others.

Ask: Do you know someone who sews? When you lose a button from a dress or shirt does your mother sew it on again?

Say: If so, then you know how thankful others can be when a coat is repaired or you receive new clothes. Dorcas brought happiness to many others by helping and serving.

So when Dorcas died many people were sad. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples was preaching in a city near Joppa. Some of her friends ran to get Peter. They hoped he would come and comfort them. As soon as he arrived at her house, he was shown many pieces of clothing that Dorcas had made. Her friends told Peter how kind and generous Dorcas had been to them. She had touched many lives with her sewing. She loved to serve others and looked for nothing in return.

Peter asked everyone to leave the house so he could pray. Then he looked at Dorcas. An amazing thing happened. He told her to stand up. She sat up and Peter reached out his hand to her as she opened her eyes and stood up. God had made her alive again and healed her. Peter's prayer was answered and her friends were thrilled to see her alive again.

Dorcas' story was told to many people in the city and lots of people believed in God. They saw God's power and believed the message Peter brought.

Ask: Do you feel good when you help others? Who are people we can help?

Say: We can help our mother, father, sister, brother, neighbor, teacher, etc.

Ask: Do you think God wants us to give and serve others?

Say: Yes, He does want us to give to others. He even says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Today we will make a gift so we can practice what God says to do.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Have children make note holders to give to someone they love.

Supplies: Small heavy-duty paper plates  
Hole puncher  
Yarn or ribbon  
Crayons  
Decorative items  
Squares of paper with "I LOVE YOU" written on them  
Glue

Prepare: Cut some of the paper plates in half so that each child will have a full plate and half a plate. Punch holes through both along the edge.

Do: Give each child a full paper plate and one plate half. Children can use yarn or ribbon to sew the plates together to form a note holder. Let them decorate the plate half with stickers, stamps, stars or crayon drawings. Punch two holes in the top of the paper plate and string yarn or ribbon and tie in a bow. Glue on "I LOVE YOU" squares. Tell children that they can give it to a friend or family member.

**MUSIC:**

Sing the following to the tune of "Thumbkin."

Words

Hand Motions

Where is Martha? Where is Martha?  
There she is. There she is.  
She is busy listening. She is busy listening.  
List'ning to Christ. List'ning to Christ.

Cup hand to ear

Where is Peter? Where is Peter?  
There he is. There he is.  
He is busy walking. He is busy walking.  
Walking to Christ. Walking to Christ.

Second and third fingers move on open palm

Where is Dorcas? Where is Dorcas?  
There she is. There she is.  
She is busy sewing. She is busy sewing.  
Sewing new clothes. Sewing new clothes.

Use pretend needle and sew

Where is Zacchaeus? Where is Zacchaeus?  
There he is. There he is.  
He is busy looking. He is busy looking.  
Looking for Christ. Looking for Christ.

Hand above eye like salute

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Do: Discuss the meaning of the verse.

# *family activity*

**THE POINT:**

To teach through the story of Dorcas that God wants us to serve others.

**ASK ME...**

- How did Dorcas help others?
- Who prayed for Dorcas?
- What gift did I make in class to give and show love to others?

**FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

- Have child retell the story of Dorcas.
- Take used clothing to a shelter or other service organization.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."