

# Lesson 6 Jesus' Friends Help Others

Choose from the options listed below to follow Adventure Trails that lead to Jesus:

### Discovery Trails

- TEACHER FEATURE** (5 min.)  
*Can You Help Me?*
- BIBLE STORY** (10 min.)  
*Dorcas and Peter Are Helpers (Elem.)*  
*Jesus' Friends Help Others (Preschool)*
- NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS** (5 min.)  
*Helpfully Clean*
- BIBLE MEMORY** (5 min.)  
*Treasure Hunt*

### Worship Trails

- SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS** (10 min.)
- SHARE AND PRAYER** (5 min.)  
*Helping Pictures*

### Wildlife Trails

- SNACK SHACK** (5 min.)  
*Spelling Snack*
- CAMPSITE CAPERS** (15 min.)  
*Bucket Brigade (Elementary)*  
*Clothes Relay (Preschool)*
- COZY CAVE CRAFTS** (15 min.)  
*Help Thumb-body Pictures (Elementary)*  
*Story Flap Book (Preschool)*

### Happy Trails

- CLOSING ACTIVITIES** (5 min.)
- OVERTIME ACTIVITIES** (as needed)

Gather the kids around the table full of supplies. **I need some help today! All of my supplies are not where they need to be. Can any of you help me put them where they go?** Assign each child a small task so that every child gets to help. Some may neatly stack Bibles on shelves. Others may organize the craft supplies and take them to the craft area. Others might put the puppets behind the puppet stage. Compliment and encourage the children as they help. When everything is in order, gather the children back together and be seated.

**Thank you so much for helping me! I am so glad I didn't have to do all this work alone. You are good helpers. Can you tell me about other ways you help people?** Encourage the children to name ways they help other teachers, friends, classmates, parents, and siblings.

**It feels great when someone helps us. What are ways that other people help you?** Let the children share their experiences in receiving help from others. (*Parents cook for them, older children help them find lost items, teachers help them learn, etc.*)

**Jesus' friends help one another. Let's learn how Jesus' friend Peter was able to help someone who had helped others.**

If you are separating the elementary and preschool children for the Bible story, have your Park Patrol members lead them to the appropriate class area at this time. If you are keeping them together, be sure to use the Elementary Bible Story to teach the lesson.

## DISCOVERY TRAILS

### TEACHER FEATURE

#### *Can You Help Me?*

**Supplies:** All possible supplies needed to teach a lesson (Bibles, paper, markers, craft supplies, Noah's Park puppets, etc.)

**Preparation:** Place all of the supplies in a jumble on a table where the kids can reach them.

## ELEMENTARY BIBLE STORY

### *Dorcas and Peter Are Helpers*

(Acts 9:36-41)

**Supplies:** Bible

Show the children where today's Bible story is found, in Acts 9. Explain that you will tell the story in a rhyme. The children should listen carefully to learn the story. Read the story slowly and clearly so the kids can understand every line. When finished, read the story a

second time, this time letting the children pat their knees on the beats.

**There's a woman in our story this week—  
Dorcas was her name in Greek.  
She was always busy doing good,  
As a Christian always should.**

**God gave Dorcas a talent for sewing.  
Her speedy fingers were always going.  
Dorcas sewed for all the poor.  
She happily did this mighty big chore.**

**She wanted people to love Jesus as she did.  
She showed His love to every man, woman,  
and kid.  
She sewed every item with a gentle, loving touch.  
The people in the town loved her very much.**

**But then came the sad day when she got sick  
and died.**

**All the town's people came and cried.  
No one could ever take her place in their hearts.  
She had shown Jesus' love right from the start.**

**"Wait," someone shouted, "I know a man who  
can heal!"**

**"Quick, run and get him," the women did squeal.  
Peter had been healing in Jesus' name.  
He wanted to help others, so quickly he came.**

**Peter was taken to the room where she lay.  
Dorcas had been dead for more than a day.  
Peter knelt down and prayed to the Lord above,  
And God healed her to show His amazing love.**

**The people were shocked as they dried their eyes.  
They no longer had any reason to cry.  
They had seen love shown in a very strong way,  
And they believed in the Lord that very same  
day.**

**What did Dorcas do to help others? (She sewed  
clothes for poor people.) What did Peter do to help?  
(He came and healed Dorcas.) Why does Jesus want  
His friends to help others? (To show His love.)**

## PRESCHOOL BIBLE STORY

*Jesus' Friends Help Others (Acts 9:36-41)*

**Supplies:** Bible, one completed preschool craft (*Craft Book*, p. GC•78)

**Preparation:** Make a "Story Flap Book" from page GC•78 of the *Craft Book*, but don't staple the flaps together.

**Our story today is from the book of the Bible called Acts.** Show the children where Acts 9 is in your Bible. Hold up story flap 1, with Dorcas. **The Bible tells us about a woman named Dorcas. She lived in a town called Joppa. Dorcas loved Jesus! She showed her love for Jesus by helping others. Dorcas made clothing for poor people. She made coats and robes for children and other people who needed them.** Pretend to sew with a needle.

**One day Dorcas became very sick. Her friends tried to help her. But Dorcas was so sick that she died. Her friends laid her on a bed. People remembered the good things Dorcas had done. They were very sad.**

**The people heard that Peter, one of Jesus' special helpers, was in a nearby town.** Show the children story flap 2, with Peter. **Two men went to talk to Peter. Maybe he could do something to help.**

Pat your knees as if walking. **Peter came back to Joppa with the two friends. He went up to the room where Dorcas was. The people in the room showed Peter the clothes that Dorcas had made for the poor. "Dorcas really helped others," they said. "Now she is gone. Can you help us, Peter?"**

**Peter asked Dorcas's friends to leave the room. Then he knelt down and asked God to make Dorcas alive again. Peter turned toward Dorcas's body and said, "Dorcas, get up!"**

**Dorcas opened her eyes! She sat up when she saw Peter. Peter helped her stand up. God's power had made her come back to life! Peter called her friends to come and see. Show story flap 3, with Peter and Dorcas. Everyone was happy and praised God.**

**Jesus' friends help one another. Dorcas helped**

the people who needed clothes. Peter helped Dorcas through his prayers. We can help others too.

Use the Story Flap Book to review the Bible story. Show story flap 1. **Who is this woman who helped poor people by sewing clothes for them?** (*Dorcas.*) Show story flap 2. **Who is this man who helped Dorcas by praying for her?** (*Peter.*) Show story flap 3. **What happened to Dorcas?** (*She came back to life.*)

## NOAH'S PARK PUPPETS

### *Helpfully Clean*

Today's puppet skit is found on page GP-77 of the Noah's Park *Puppet Skits Book*. When the Park Patrol is ready, lead the group to the puppet area for the puppet presentation. Have the preschool children sit in front of the elementary children so they can see. Remind them to listen carefully to the puppet skit.

## BIBLE MEMORY

### *Treasure Hunt*

**Supplies:** Colorful index cards or paper squares

**Preparation:** Print each word of the verse on a colored index card or paper square. Hide the cards around the room.

For today's memory verse, choose a Bible verse that corresponds to the lesson theme or that was used in today's Sunday school lesson.

Tell the children they will need to help each other to find today's Bible verse. Inform the children you have hidden the verse words around the room. The children will need to find all the words. Then they'll need to help each other put the words in the right order.

Give a signal and let the kids find the cards. Make sure every child finds at least one card. Then have the children work together to put the verse in order on the floor or on a table. When completed, have the children who are strong readers read the verse in unison to the non-readers. Then have the whole class repeat the verse a few times.

If time permits, have the children find the verse in their Bibles.

Jesus' friends help others. Dorcas showed she was Jesus' friend by helping poor people with her sewing. Peter showed he was Jesus' friend by helping Dorcas with his prayers. We can also show we are Jesus' friends by helping others. Let's praise Jesus now that we can be His friend and help others.



## SINGING PRAISES TO JESUS

**Supplies:** Noah's Park CD and CD player

Introduce the new song for Unit 9, "Good Friends." You may want to project the words on a screen or the wall and point to each line as it is sung. (Words are on page G-271 of this *Leader's Guide*.) Sing the song through at least twice to help the children become familiar with it. As time permits, sing additional songs about helping others in Jesus' name.

## SHARE AND PRAYER

### *Helping Pictures*

**Supplies:** Drawing paper, colored pencils or markers

**Jesus' friends help others. You can show you are Jesus' friend by helping others this week. What are ways you can help the people around you?** Let the children brainstorm. (*Help a teacher in the classroom, help a friend with homework, help parents with chores, help a younger brother or sister in some way, etc.*)

Give out paper and colored pencils or markers. Write "HELP!" on the board, and have the children copy it on their papers. Then instruct the children to each draw a picture of a way they could help someone this week. Give the children a few minutes to draw their Helping Pictures.

Then divide the children into small groups, with their Helping Pictures, for prayer. Encourage the children to take turns praying this sentence prayer: "Jesus, please help me to be Your helper this week by . . ." and finishing it by describing what they drew. Then lead the class in a large-group prayer by thanking Jesus for

His friendship and asking Him to help the children be helpful all week long.

**Your picture can be a reminder all week long for you to look for ways you can help others.**

Encourage the children to think of a place at home where they could hang their picture. Then have the children put their Helping Pictures in a designated spot to take home at the end of class.

## WILDLIFE TRAILS



At this time, separate the preschoolers from the elementary-age kids for age-appropriate games and crafts. Have the assigned Park Patrol members take the children to the designated areas. The groups may have snack together or separately. Make sure the Park Patrol members have their assignments to help with the various activities.

## SNACK SHACK

### Spelling Snack

For a lesson-related snack idea, see page GS-77 in the *Snacks and Games Book*. You could have a Noah's Park puppet visit with the children to help them spell. Also have Park Patrol members available to assist the children.

## CAMPSITE CAPERS

### Bucket Brigade (Elementary)

### Clothes Relay (Preschool)

The elementary children will play the game "Bucket Brigade." It will work best in a large open area. Or, if the weather is nice, take the children outside for the game. The preschoolers will be playing a "Clothes Relay." Directions for the games are on pages GS-77 and GS-78 of the *Snacks and Games Book*.

## COZY CAVE CRAFTS

### Help Thumb-body Pictures (Elem.)

### Story Flap Book (Preschool)

The Elementary craft, "Help Thumb-body Pictures," is found on page GC-77 of the *Craft Book*. The preschoolers will make "Story Flap Books," following the directions on page GC-78 of the *Craft Book*. Designate a spot for kids to put their completed projects until they go home.

## HAPPY TRAILS



## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

A few minutes before class time is over, signal the children to stop their activities and listen to directions for straightening up the room. After giving instructions, play the unit Song "Good Friends," as background music for cleanup time. Let the Park Patrol take the Noah's Park puppets and walk around encouraging the children to all help each other.

When finished, gather the children back together. Take time to review the Bible memory verse. Sing the new unit song again.

As the children leave, be sure they have their Helping Pictures from Share and Prayer as well as their crafts. Remind each child, Jesus' friends help one another.

## OVERTIME ACTIVITIES

If you have time left while waiting for parents to pick up their children, you could help the children act out the Bible story. Or play a Noah's Park cassette story and show the pictures in the corresponding Noah's Park storybook.

If you would like to purchase Noah's Park books, tapes, videos, or additional puppets, you can call 1-800-323-7543 or visit our web site at [www.cookministries.com](http://www.cookministries.com).

