

The Beatitudes – Merciful (Dorcas - Tabitha)

Theme: God blesses you when you care about others. He will care for you. (Matt 5v7)

On arrival: Have some bandages available so that the first few children coming in can initiate bandaging an imaginary wound on each other. Really just a bit of fun not to get too involved!

Game: Sleeping Lions: All the children lie on the floor pretending to be sleeping lions. The leaders walk around watching for anyone who moves or fidgets. It may be fun to try and distract the sleeping lions to see if they move!!

Game: Share: Have enough wrapped sweets, one for each child and a tub with a lid on. Line up chairs as in musical chairs (or sit on floor, in a line with children back to back) Each child starts with a sweet. Pass the tub around whilst playing music. When the music stops the child holding the tub has to lift the lid, put their sweet in and then pass the tub to the child on their left, they then sit out of the game. Play continues until one child is holding the tub with all the sweets. That child is asked do they want to keep all the sweets or do they want to share? (Best have some spare sweets ready just in case the winner isn't feeling generous!!!!)

Game: Are you sleeping? One child hides under a blanket as if asleep. All other children creep around whispering "are you sleeping, are you sleeping – you can't catch us you can't catch us!" The child under the blanket can choose when to jump out from under the blanket and catch a child. The caught child then becomes the sleeper.

Introduction: Ask the children who cares for them. Ask the children who cares for their next door neighbour. Ask the children if there are people that don't get cared for. What type of people can care for those who don't have anybody? Talk about community care projects like 'caring hands' 'salvation army' 'hope kitchens' etc.

Story: Dorcas (Tabitha) Acts 9 v 36-42 Powerplay story in resources

Song: God Loves Me, I want to shout it out (Doug Horley – Lovely Jubbly Track 9)

Memory Verse: "Leave all your worries with Him because He cares for you"
1Peter 5 v 7 (See Puzzle in Resources)

Application: When God sees that our heart is good – He will reward us. Tabitha's friends didn't want to lose her. They knew she was a good person. Peter could see Tabitha's friends desire to save her knowing she was a loyal servant to God and one who helped others. But Tabitha had died. When Peter called out to God, God restored Tabitha to life. Perhaps He knew she had more good work to do? How can we show that we are caring for other people? God will always care for you, but when you are caring, generous and charitable He will want to bless you. Use this time to give any relevant testimony.

Prayer: Provide each child with a Post-it note and a pen. They can then write the name of someone on it that they would like God to help them to care for, or someone they would like God to heal. The Post-its can then be stuck on a cross and given to Jesus.

Resources: Funsheet, Power Play Story, Memory Verse Puzzle,

Peter was a disciple, (a follower) of Jesus. He was in a place called Lydda visiting Gods people and performing miracles. Near to Lydda was a village called Joppa.

Now in Joppa there lived a lady who was obedient to God. Her name was Tabitha. Tabitha was a good woman who helped the poor. She had become ill and had died and as was the custom had been laid on her bed in her room where all her friends were with her, crying and mourning.

They were devastated that Tabitha had died, so when they heard that a man named Peter was in the next village and that miracles were happening they sent two men to get him urgently.

When Peter arrived at Tabitha's house all of her friends crowded around him crying and showing him all the things that she had made for the poor in the village while she was alive. They were so very upset but Peter sent them all out of the room.

Then Peter knelt down and he prayed to God. He turned toward Tabitha and said "Tabitha get up"
Tabitha opened her eyes and saw Peter, she slowly sat up and Peter helped her to her feet. He called out to her friends to come back into the room to witness the miracle and when they did they were amazed to see her alive and well. The news of this miracle spread all over Joppa and then many more people believed in the Lord God.

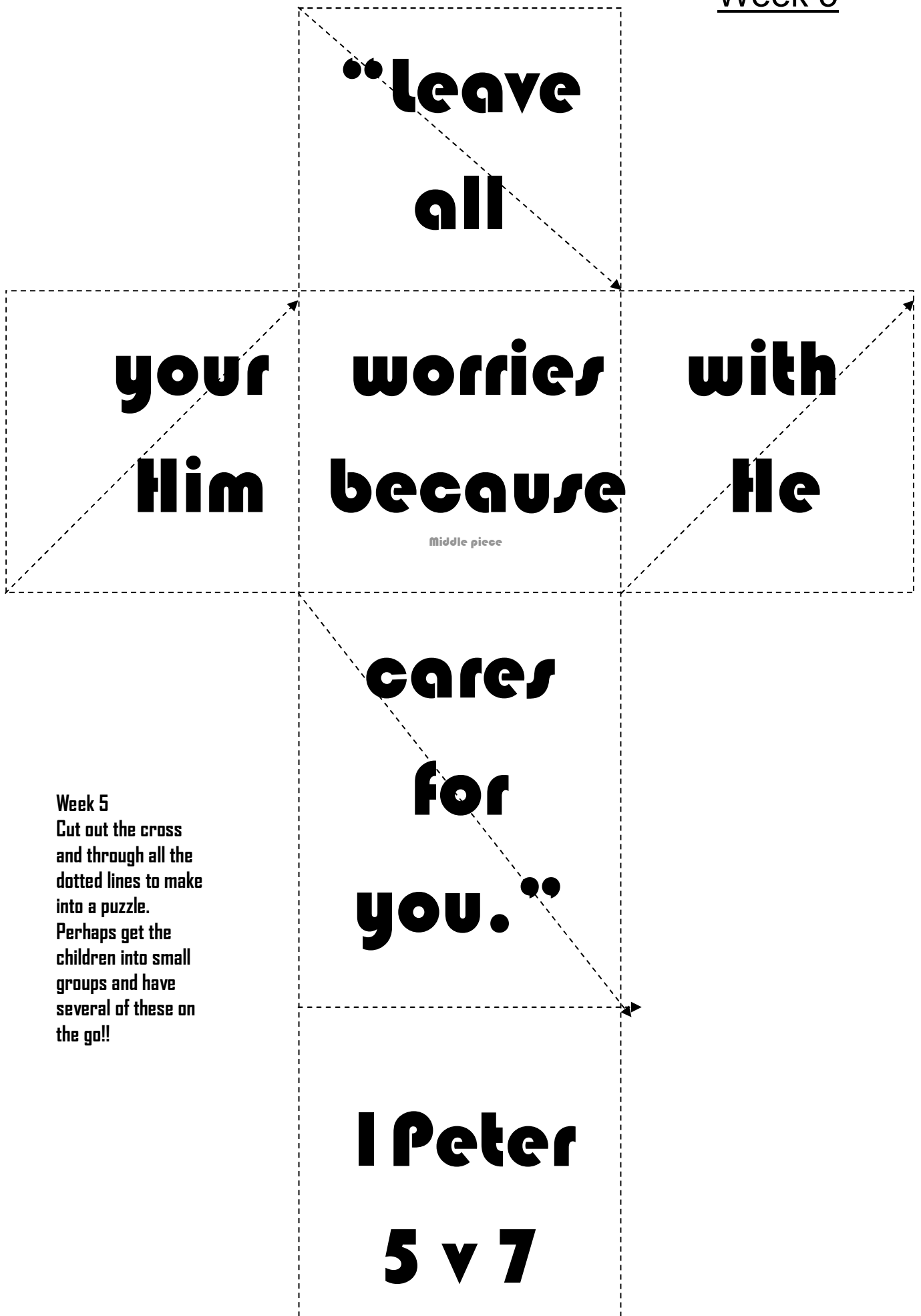
GOD – point up

PETER – walk on spot as Peter was a follower (Disciple)

TABITHA – pretend to sew

MIRACLE – Jazz hands (shake)

CRYING – Boo Hoo and rub eyes



Week 5
Cut out the cross
and through all the
dotted lines to make
into a puzzle.
Perhaps get the
children into small
groups and have
several of these on
the go!!