Raphael and Tobias

The Guide You Did Not See

Ages about 7-11 | Video 5:24 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Tobit's and Sarah's prayers are connected through Tobias's journey. Raphael's revealed identity directs gratitude toward God, who sent the help they did not yet recognize.

Learning goals Children will distinguish Tobit from Tobias, connect the two prayers with the journey's outcome, and explain that Raphael serves God.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask children to listen for the two people praying at the beginning. Watch how one journey eventually connects their needs.

Watch and notice

Keep track of the guide's help at the river, with Sarah, and at Tobit's home. At the identity reveal, recall who sent him.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. Who prays at the beginning, and what troubles them?
Tobit has lost his sight; Sarah is suffering and feels alone. God hears both, even though they are in different places.

2. Why does Tobias begin the journey?
His father asks him to recover money kept far away. The guide helps him travel, and the journey becomes part of a larger story of care.

3. How are Sarah and Tobit helped?
Sarah is freed from the evil afflicting her, and Tobit's sight is restored. Tobias participates in the help, guided by Raphael.

4. What does the guide's revealed identity teach?
He is Raphael, sent by God. The wonderful help should lead the family to thank God rather than treat the guide as God himself.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Raphael and Tobias

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children picture the two prayers and then the journey that joins the families. A simple path with figures is enough; do not draw frightening scenes.

Read & Write Children connect people with needs and help received, explain Raphael's role, and name a trustworthy source of help in their own lives.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: repeat father Tobit and son Tobias. Use prayer, journey, and thanks to retell the story.

Ages 9-11: notice that the purpose of the journey becomes clearer later. Discuss how trust can include wise questions and responsible help.

Connect the two prayers | Optional 4 minutes

Place papers labeled Tobit and Sarah apart, with Tobias and Raphael between them. Children explain how the journey connects the people. Then name one helper they can thank and one person for whom they can pray.

Look for understanding Look for the correct family relationships, both prayers, and God as the source of Raphael's mission. Personal applications should involve trustworthy help.

Closing prayer God, hear those who are lonely, ill, or afraid. Help us receive wise guidance and offer care to others. Saint Raphael, pray for us. Amen.

At home Pray with an adult for someone who needs care. Thank a trusted helper and choose one appropriate way to support that person.

Handout answer notes Tobit receives sight; Sarah is freed from the evil afflicting her. Azariah is Raphael, sent by God. Accept a caregiver, teacher, or other trusted adult and a clear request.

Teach with care

Introduce father Tobit, son Tobias, Sarah, and the guide called Azariah. Explain Sarah's sorrow simply; the lesson does not require frightening details. This is a simplified retelling of Tobit. Fish preparations are part of this biblical account, not medical advice or a ritual to imitate. Trust does not mean following strangers or refusing questions. Healing in this story does not promise that all illness ends the same way.

Words to explain Tobit: the father who has lost his sight. Tobias: his son, called Tobiah in some Bible translations. Raphael: the angel God sends to help; his name means God heals.

Sources for the leader

Story and themes: USCCB: Introduction to Tobit

Raphael reveals his identity: Tobit 12