

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## Women of the Word

### Dorcas

Lesson 16

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review last week's lesson on Phebe. In what way is Phebe a role model for you?
2. The focus of our lesson this week will be on a woman whose life has inspired Christian women of every generation. Read her story in Acts 9:36-42. What do you learn about her name? Acts 9:36
3. Begin your study with a prayer. Ask the Lord to use this lesson to inspire you to a deeper level of love and commitment to serve Him. Write your prayer here.

*Make me like You, Lord.  
You are a servant, make me one too.  
Lord, I am willing, do what You must do  
to make me like You, Lord, make me like You.*  
-selected

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 9:36

1. Become acquainted with Dorcas by listing phrase by phrase what Acts 9:36 reveals about her.
  
2. Dorcas is the only woman in the Bible described as a *disciple*. Define the word *disciple*.
  - a. What do you learn from the following verses about being a *disciple*:
    - (1.) Matthew 16:24
  
    - (2.) John 8:31b
  
3. Thoughtfully consider the following phrase from Acts 9:36 that describes this disciple: *full of good works and almsdeeds*. What does this tell you about her?
  - a. How does the phrase *which she did* verify her commitment?
  
4. Dorcas' faith produced *good works*. How was she an example of Titus 2:7a?
  - a. How is she a *pattern* for you?
  
5. Complete today's study by once again focusing on the word *disciple* in the following song. How does this speak to you?

*I want to be a follower of Christ.  
I want to be one of His disciples.  
Tell me what will it cost if I carry the Cross.  
I want to be a follower of Christ.  
-Heart's Desire*

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 9:37,38

1. After the inspiration and admiration of this Acts 9:36 disciple, it is a shock to read Acts 9:37. What happened in those days?
  
2. Read Acts 9:38 to see what these believers did in their time of crisis. What did they do?
  - a. Why do you think they sent for Peter? See Acts 9:32-35.
  
3. As Christians we experience times of crisis in our lives. What was the result of the miracle in Acts 9:(32-34)35.
  - a. What does this say to you about God's purpose in allowing crises in your life?
  
4. How does the following hymn minister to you?

*God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.  
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;  
God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.  
W. Cowper*

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 9:39-41

1. When the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" (Acts 9:38b NW). What did Peter do in response to their urgent request? Acts 9:39a

Then \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Read Acts 9:39. From this verse what do you learn about the following:
  - a. Peter
  - b. the widows
  - c. Dorcas
  
3. Acts 9:40-41 is so extraordinary we need to write it phrase by phrase and let the wonder of this miracle penetrate our hearts and minds with awe of God.

- a. What do you think your reaction would have been if you had been in the *upper chamber* that day?

*To God be the glory! Great things He hath done.*  
-selected

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 9:42

1. Sense the wonder and joy of this resurrection and see the glorious results as you print Acts 9:42 here.
  - a. Don't miss the outcome of the miracles of Acts 9:35 and Acts 9:42. Take time now to reflect on this and write your response.
  
2. Think about how the gospel was spread through the crisis in Joppa. How can crisis in your life be used as a witness for the Lord?

- a. Share an example of this from your life or from the life of someone you know.
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3. Joy must have spread throughout the Church at Joppa. Dorcas was alive! Express your joy and gratitude for the influence of this woman's life on the church today.

**SIXTH DAY:** Review

1. The name Dorcas (Tabitha) means *gazelle*, which implies *loveliness* and *beauty*. In what ways did her life and ministry reflect the meaning of her name?
  
2. Dorcas' love for God motivated her for practical expressions of kindness to those around her. She did what she could to help others. What have you learned from her example?
  
3. What effect did Dorcas' testimony have on the church at Joppa?
  
4. What is most astounding to you about Dorcas' story?
  - a. Tell why.
  
5. Share a way you have been inspired or challenged through your lesson this week.

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,  
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

Hebrews 13:16 NIV