

A NEEDLE AND THREAD

Acts 9:36-43

1. Share a hobby or favorite activity you enjoy in your spare time. If you could learn something new, what would it be?
2. Our story takes place in Joppa, a prominent city in Judea. Infant churches all over Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria are growing as more people place their faith in Jesus Christ and join a community of believers.
Look back at these events in Acts and share how these events led to the growth of the church.

Acts 1:6-8

Acts 2:36-41

Acts 2:42-47

Acts 9:1-15

Acts 9:32-35

3. Read Acts 9:36-43. Share at least 4 things you learn about Tabitha in verse 36.
4. Read Acts 9:38-39. Where is Peter when Tabitha dies? Look on your map to locate this town.
5. Think of some hardships a widow might face. How might the loss of Tabitha affect the widows and those she served in Joppa?
6. In verse 40, what were the things Peter did before he asked Tabitha to arise? Who really resurrected Tabitha?
7. After reading this story, how did Tabitha's return to life affect the growth of the church in Joppa?
8. If you had to write an epitaph for Tabitha, what words or phrases would you use to describe her life?
9. Think of those hobbies or skills you shared in the first questions. How can you use those God given gifts to serve others?

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A Beloved Servant

Acts 9:36

Tabitha was FULL of good works and generous with her time and resources in the city of Joppa.

As a disciple, Tabitha believed in and followed Jesus.

Out of her great love for Jesus, Tabitha put her faith in action and served those in need.

A Life Gone Too Soon

Acts 9:37-38

When Tabitha died, her body was not buried but placed in an upper room in expectation of a miracle.

Knowing Peter healed Aeneas in Lydda, the disciples asked him to come quickly to Joppa.

The disciples were hoping Peter could work a miracle for Tabitha.

A Life Worth Living Again

Acts 9:39-41

The widows were full of sorrow and weeping at the loss of their dear friend.

Tabitha's love and compassion for widows was evident as they showed Peter tunics and garments she sewed for them.

Tabitha's loving acts of kindness towards widows are still needed today. We can:

1 - _____ to their story; 2 - _____ grace; 3 - _____ them find ways to serve.

Peter knelt and prayed depending on God to resurrect Tabitha. God answered and Tabitha came to life.

A Living Testimony

Acts 9:42-43

The life, death, and resurrection of Tabitha became known throughout Joppa.

Many came to believe in the Lord because of His power to rescue her from death.

Tabitha's life is a picture of what Jesus has done for us. By believing in Him, we have eternal life!

You are a Living Testimony when you:

Use your God-given gifts to _____ others right where you are.

_____ in the lives of those you serve by listening to them, seeing them, and knowing them.

_____ God to work in the hearts of those you serve. He will bring fruit from your service.

_____ to experience joy in your service.

Key: Listen, Practice, Help, serve, Engage, Trust, Expect

Our Favorite Stories – A Needle and Thread

June 14-15, 2023

ACTS 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

EPHESIANS 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

DEUTERONOMY 14:28-29 At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns and the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled...

ISAIAH 1:17 ...learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.

PSALM 68:5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

LUKE 7:11-15 Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

MARK 5:41-42 Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

EPHESIANS 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.