

## The Week in the Word

### Acts Worksheet #18: Jesus Heals Aeneas and Raises Dorcas

*Passage: Acts 9:32-43*

*Sermon Dates: June 21-22*

*Study Period: June 16-20*

*Link Group Meetings: June 23-27*

This passage shifts our attention from Saul back to Peter. We are also introduced to two new characters: one who is totally helpless, and another who is a helper to everyone. As God works through Peter in these two lives, the message goes out, and many people are saved.

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1. For what things would you like to be remembered at your funeral?

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2. **Read Acts 9:32-35.** What was Peter's purpose in going to Lydda? (9:32)

AENEAS (pronounced "uh-NEE-us")

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3. How long had Aeneas been sick, and what was his sickness? (9:33)

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4. Why would both of Peter's statements be a blessing to Aeneas? (9:34)

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5. What seems to be the purpose of these miracles? (vv. 35, 41-42; see also 2:22,43; 4:30; 5:12-14)

Our attention is drawn next to the town of Joppa, our modern-day Jaffa, or Yafo, a suburb of Tel-Aviv, 35 miles Northwest of Jerusalem on the Mediterranean Coast. This is where Jonah hopped a ship to avoid having to go to Ninevah. It is also where two other important events occurred: The raising of Dorcas, and the preparation of Peter for witnessing to the Gentiles.

#### **DORCAS (TABITHA)**

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6. **Read Acts 9:36-42.** What four things would you mention if you were called upon to write a eulogy about Dorcas? (9:36,39) What do each of these traits tell you about her?

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7. What sort of practical abilities do you have that could be used in our church and community to be a practical help and witness to people?

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8. Why do you suppose the men were sent to get Peter? What were they assuming? (v.37-38)

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9. Who was gathered around crying, and showing the clothes that Dorcas (Tabitha) had made? Why would they be the ones doing that? (9:39)

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10. Why do you think Peter sent the people out of the room before doing this miracle? (9:40)

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11. What was the impact of this miracle on the town of Joppa? (v.42)

### **UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WAYS**

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12. Why is it that Tabitha was raised, but Stephen died (Acts 7-8), even though Peter was there too?

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13. How would you explain God's ways to Stephen's widow or mother?

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14. How might the results of Stephen's death and Tabitha's resurrection help you to understand God's plans for your life?