

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Dorcas*

Lesson Objective:

In our story today we learn about Dorcas being raised to life. As followers of Jesus have fled persecution, they have scattered into different parts of the ancient world with Joppa being one of them. There a lady named Tabitha, or Dorcas, ministers in the name of Jesus to the poor and widows. Living out Jesus' call in Matthew 25, Dorcas makes a tremendous impact on the helpless around her. However, her death paralyzes the community, but God uses Peter to bring her back to life. In our story, we learn that only God has the power to bring the dead back to life – in a physical sense and also spiritually. We are dead in our trespasses and sins, but through Jesus Christ we can be brought back to life if we believe in Him.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution.
- Saul is a chief persecutor of the church. However, Jesus disrupts Saul's plans and calls Saul to follow Him instead.
- Saul preaches the Good News everywhere He goes.
- Many are added to the Church because followers of Jesus are obedient to Him.
- Peter travels preaching the Good News too. He heals the sick and helps raise the dead.
- Dorcas cared for the poor and widows in Joppa.
- Peter comes to the aid of followers in Joppa when a dear friend, Dorcas, dies.
- Peter prays to God, and then by the power of God raises Dorcas to life.
- Many people hear the news of Dorcas and believe in the Lord.

Scripture: Acts 9:32-43

Story: Vos Child's Story Bible, Page 346

Scripture Memory for November:

And He (Jesus) commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He (Jesus) is the One appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. *Acts 10:42 (ESV)*

Opening Activity: Use props to teach the lesson and re-enact it.

- 3's - finger puppets
- 4's - little people
- 5's - dress up

Craft: Dorcas

Supplies: Clothespin, cloth, verse sticker, magnet, glue, marker

- Instructions:**
1. Glue fabric to one side of clothespin leaving room to draw a face.
 2. Draw face with marker.
 3. Place verse sticker and magnet on the back.



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, in our story today we learn about a very kind lady that many people love. Her name is Dorcas. She is very special to many people in our story. Let's find out what made her so kind and why she was so special...

The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! More and more people believed in Jesus – the Church was growing!

But as more and more people became followers of Jesus, there was someone trying to hurt them. This man's name was Saul.

Saul

Saul was a mean guy. Saul wanted to destroy the church. He went from house to house. He dragged out men and women and put them in jail. When this happened, followers of Jesus went to different places to live except for the Apostles. The Apostles stayed in Jerusalem. One day as he traveled to Damascus to find more followers of Jesus, a bright light from heaven flashed around Saul making him blind. Saul fell to the ground and a voice said to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing evil things against me?" It was Jesus speaking; Jesus was asking why Saul was hurting His followers. Jesus had something incredible planned for Saul. Jesus was going to use Saul to tell others the Good News! Jesus instructed Saul to go to Damascus and someone would tell Saul what to do next.

The Lord instructed Ananias to go to Saul and help him. Ananias was scared of Saul because he knew Saul hurt followers of Jesus. But Ananias was also obedient and went to Saul. The Lord healed Saul and Ananias explained to Saul what happened and what Saul needed to do next. Saul told lots of people the Good News. Many people were amazed by Saul, but others wanted to hurt him, but each time he escaped. Saul boldly preached in the name of Jesus.

The Bible tells us the church everywhere in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had a time of peace. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the Church became stronger. The followers of Jesus showed their obedience to Jesus by the way they lived. Because of this, the Church grew larger and larger.

Dorcas

While Paul was starting to preach the Good News. The apostle Peter was travelling around visiting God's people who lived in Lydda. There he met a paralyzed man named Aeneas. Paralyzed means he could not walk. Aeneas had not been able to leave his bed for the past eight years. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Stand up and make your bed!" And Aeneas stood up immediately. All the people living in Lydda and nearby saw him. These people turned to the Lord!

In the city of Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. But her name in Greek is Dorcas (pronunciation: dork-cuss). The Bible tell us that Dorcas was always doing good and helping the poor. Dorcas was a follower of Jesus. Dorcas wanted to help those that needed help like the poor. She took such good care of them. While Peter was in Lydda, Dorcas became sick and died. When people died in the Bible their bodies would be washed and then placed in a room for people to come and visit. When followers of Jesus heard that Peter was in Lydda, which was near Joppa where Dorcas lived, two men were sent to find Peter.

When the two men found Peter, they begged him, "Hurry, please come to us!" Peter got ready and went with them. When Peter arrived in Joppa, they took him to the room with Dorcas. All the widows who Dorcas took care of stood around Peter crying. The widows showed Peter the shirts and coats that she had made when she was alive. This showed that Dorcas really did care for the poor and the widows. Peter then sent everyone out of the room. He knelt

and prayed. Then he turned to the body and said, "Dorcas, stand up!" Dorcas opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Peter gave her his hand and helped her up. Then Peter called the followers of Jesus and the widows into the room. They saw Dorcas alive! People everywhere in Joppa learned about this, and many believed in the Lord!

God brought Dorcas back to life! And God used Peter to do it. God's power was also seen by bringing many people to believe in Him. Only God can bring the dead back to life. And God was growing His Church.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have children answer "yes" or "no."

- Did Saul like followers of Jesus? (No, he hurt them)
- Did Jesus blind Saul on the Road to Damascus? (Yes)
- Did Jesus call Saul to follow Him and preach the Good News? (Yes)
- Did the Church add more and more people to it? (Yes)
- Does the Holy Spirit grow the Church? (Yes)
- Did Dorcas care for the poor and widows? (Yes)
- Did Dorcas live for a long time? (No, she died)
- Did the men go find Paul to come and raise Dorcas back to life? (No; Peter)
- Did Peter pray to God for help? (Yes)
- Did God raise Dorcas to life? (Yes)
- Did no one hear about Dorcas being raised back to life? (No, everyone heard about it)

Questions for Review with Older Children

- Name some of the people in our story today.
- Who did Saul hurt in our story?
- What did Jesus do to Saul?
- What did Saul do after he was healed?
- What was the name of the lady in our story today?
- Who did Tabitha/Dorcas care for in our story?
- What did Peter do before telling Dorcas to get up?
- Who raises dead people back to life?