

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)

Lesson #91

DATE:

SUBJECT: Helping Others in Jesus' Name

SCRIPTURE: Acts 9:32-43

AIM: To help show the children that Jesus wants us to help one another.

MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 9:10b "...for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

CONTENT: Peter traveled to many towns to find believers and talk with them. He wanted to teach them more about Jesus so they could grow stronger in their faith. One day he came to the town of Lydda. When he wasn't teaching the believers, he went to homes to find people who did not know Jesus and tell them about Him.

Peter came to the home of Aeneas, a handicapped man, who had been in bed for eight years. Peter told Aeneas about Jesus. When Peter knew that Aeneas had faith in Jesus, he said, "Jesus heals you. Get up and roll up your mat."

Aeneas got up right away. Even though he had not been able to get out of bed for eight years, Jesus' power made Aeneas' body so strong that he could get up. Naturally, all the people in the town of Lydda were amazed that Jesus' power could heal Aeneas. In fact, the people in the next town of Sharron heard about Aeneas too. They wanted to know more about Jesus. Peter talked to many people, telling them how to believe in Jesus, and everyone in those two towns believed in Jesus.

In a nearby town called Joppa, lived a woman named Dorcas. She loved Jesus. She learned that Jesus had helped people when He lived on the earth. She also learned that Jesus had commanded His followers to go and teach others about Him.

Dorcas told people about Jesus and she helped them. She spent all her time doing good and helping needy people.

Because the town of Joppa was right on the seashore, most of the men of the town were sailors. They worked on ships, which carried spices and colored cloth from Joppa to the shopkeepers in Jerusalem. The ships were not big and strong, such as the ships we can ride today, and the waves were very large. Many times the sailors said good-bye to their families in Joppa, sailed their ships to Jerusalem, but never came back to their families because their ships sank.

Many, many children lost their fathers this way, and many, many wives lost their husbands. When the family had no father and husband, it was a poor family. The mother had no money to buy food and the children were hungry. There were many poor families in Joppa.

Dorcas was very sorry for these poor families. She wanted to serve the Lord by helping them. So she sewed clothes for the women and children, baked bread, and helped the mothers take care of their babies. She also told them of Jesus' love for them.

You can see why everyone in Joppa loved Dorcas. Perhaps she was the only one who cared for the people whom no one else loved.

Then one day, Dorcas became sick. Everyone in the town felt very sad. All the friends whom she had helped now wanted to help her. Maybe they brought her chicken soup and put cool, wet clothes on her hot forehead. But in spite of all their love and care, Dorcas grew worse and worse. After a while, she died. With tears

flowing from their eyes, her friends washed and dressed her body, and laid it in an upstairs room. The believers in the town wanted to do something for Dorcas. Even though Peter had not yet depended on Jesus' power to bring a person back to life, the believers had the faith that Peter could help Dorcas.

Someone said, "Peter is only 10 miles away in the town of Lydda. He has prayed for Jesus' power to help two men walk. Perhaps he could pray for Jesus' power to help us."

Two men said, "We will walk to Lydda and ask Peter to come and pray with us." After walking for about three hours, they came to Lydda and asked where Peter was staying. When they found Peter, they told him how Dorcas had loved Jesus and served Him. They told how Dorcas had helped so many people when she was alive, but now she was dead. They asked Peter to go with them and speak to the people in their sorrow, comforting and encouraging them.

Peter said he would come and they started at once back to Joppa.

As soon as the men and Peter reached the house where Dorcas' body was laid on a bed, he went to the upper room. He found many women in the room, crying because Dorcas was dead. He also found believers praying. When the women saw Peter, they began to tell him about Dorcas.

One woman said, "Look, Dorcas made this dress for me, and these clothes for my children."

Another woman told how Dorcas helped her feed and care for her children after her husband had died.

Peter listened to the many stories they told. Then he asked them to leave him alone in the room with Dorcas' body.

After they had all gone, he knelt down and prayed with all his heart to Jesus, asking Him to give Dorcas life again. Peter knew that Jesus had answered his prayer for two lame men, and made them well. So he prayed that Jesus would make Dorcas live again.

Then Peter turned to look at the dead woman and said, "Dorcas get up!"

She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. Then he took her hand and helped her stand up. Peter went to the door and called her friends and the believers. As they came hurrying up the stairs, Peter said, "Jesus has given your friend back to you."

The women hugged Dorcas. Then they went to tell the good news to all their friends. The good news quickly spread all over the town. By nighttime, everyone knew that Dorcas was alive again.

Many people, who had not believed the message about Jesus before, now changed their minds and they wanted to believe. They knew that Jesus' power was great and wonderful, and they wanted to ask Him to be their Savior. Some people, who had never heard the message about Jesus before, began to ask questions of believers, and many of them believed in Him too.

Because so many people believed in Jesus, Peter stayed in Joppa for a while. He wanted to teach the new believers about Jesus. He wanted them to grow strong in their faith in Jesus.

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