

## Wednesday

**Read: Acts 9:39** *Peter arrives*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Peter goes at once with the two disciples?*
2. *Widows in Tabitha's time were often the most marginalized people in society. What does it mean that they felt they had to show Peter the clothes Tabitha had made?*

**Prayer Focus:** Reflect on times when you were the recipient of a surprising kindness. Hold up the result of that kindness to God, and then pray to pass its witness on to others.

## Thursday

**Read: Acts 9:40-41a** *Tabitha is raised*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Does this story remind you of someone or something else in the Gospel story?*
2. *Have there been times when you have been lifted to new life? How did you respond?*

**Prayer Focus:** Jesus, Peter imitated you in raising Tabitha. He trusted in the power he had through you to change the very course of life and death. We praise you today for the power you have to work through us to transform our world.

## Friday

**Read: Acts 9:41b-43** *The word spreads*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *The word of this miracle spread. What if no one had said anything about it?*
2. *If we are called to imitate Christ, who or what would you choose to copy in this story?*

**Prayer Focus:** Gracious God, hear our hope that resurrection will continue to happen in us and through us. We pray that we can imitate your son, embrace your ways, see the world through your loving eyes, so that new life can spring up, even in the face of death and darkness, always.

## An Astonishing Imitation

**Acts 9:36-43** Dorcas is a disciple of Jesus known through her good works and acts of charity. She's been an imitator of Jesus in life, and now she has died. Peter comes and imitates Jesus, replicating what he once witnessed while looking over Jesus' shoulder where a young girl died and was raised to life (Mark 5:35ff). Jesus wants us to imitate him, to do what he did on a daily basis. Our lives should be imitations, not cheap ones, that show glory of the original as we work on copying the Master.

### Message Notes:

## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Are there some things for which there is no substitute? When is it good to accept an imitation?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

- Have someone read **Acts 9:36-43**. Discuss observations about the text.
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

### *Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

**May 12, 2019**  
**Surprise!**



## Monday

**Read: Acts 9:36-37** *Tabitha's life and death*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why is it important to know that Tabitha was such a giving person in her community at Joppa? Have you ever met someone like Tabitha?*
2. *Tabitha is dead and laid out. Why do you think they didn't bury her at once?*

### Prayer Focus:

God, let us remember that every act of giving or compassion, no matter how small, has an impact on others, even if we never see the result. As we live to imitate your son, help us to believe in the new life that comes from loving kindness, in his name.

## Tuesday

**Read: Acts 9:38** *The disciples send for Peter*

### Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why would the community of disciples send two men to find Peter?*
2. *What does their request to come without delay say about what they believed?*

### Prayer Focus:

Holy Spirit, we turn to you to guide us into deeper belief. Let the hope of healing and restoration in Jesus lead us to respond with strength out of faith and trust in your fellowship. Show us how to consult you without delay, every time.