



# ACTS

Of All the Apostles

## You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

## Lesson 21



# Many Believe

Acts 9:32-43

## Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3  
1 Peter 3:15  
Galatians 6:9-10  
2 Thessalonians 3

## Memory Verse

Blind people receive sight.  
Disabled people walk.  
Those who have skin diseases are healed.  
Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor.  
Luke 7:22 (NirV)

## Lesson Goals

Understand that many believers were sharing the good news

Understand that people in many different places responded to the good news

Understand that word spreads when God is at work

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

When you have run in a race, or competed in some way, have you ever thought that this must be the only race being run? It is easy to focus on what we know and what we are experiencing, but many others run, and they run in many different races. We've just learned about Philip and Saul, but let's not forget about the apostles, especially Peter. Let's see what he has been doing.

We last saw Peter in Samaria with John. They went there after many believed the good news that Philip shared with them. Peter was the one who corrected Simon the magician when he sinned. When Peter and John left Samaria, they shared the good news with those they met on their way home.

Peter continued traveling. His travels led him to a town called Lydda where he went to visit other believers. While he was there, he met "a disabled man named Aeneas." (Acts 9:33 NirV) Aeneas had spent most of the last eight years in bed. Peter spoke to him and said, "Aeneas, Jesus heals you. Get up and walk!" And he did. Aeneas got right up. Everyone who lived in Lydda, and even those who lived in Sharon, the next town, saw him. Those who saw him turned to God.

People in other towns heard how Peter healed Aeneas. Believers in the port town of Joppa heard about Peter and they sent two men to beg him to come. The believers in Joppa had a friend who had just died, her name was Tabitha. Before she died, Tabitha was always helping poor people and doing good.

Peter went with the believers to Joppa. When they arrived, he went upstairs to the room where they had laid Tabitha's body. Widows were all around the room and they were crying. They showed Peter all the wonderful things Tabitha made while she was alive. Then, Peter sent them all out of the room. He got down on his knees and he prayed to God.

### Application

What should you do when you are tempted to think you are the only one working for God? Remember that there are others. Even as Philip was preaching and Saul was beginning his ministry, Peter was still preaching and ministering. Peter was faithful to the work God had called him to.

How about you? Has God called you to a special task? If He has, don't be afraid, He will help you to do what He is calling you to.

If you haven't been called to a special task, it may be that God is still trying to call you to come into a relationship with Him. Don't turn Him away. Place your trust and confidence in Him and let Him direct your life.

Then, Peter turned towards Tabitha's body and he said, "Tabitha, get up." (Acts 9:40 NIV) She opened her eyes and sat up. Then Peter helped her stand and took her to her friends. Everyone saw that she was alive and word spread throughout all of Joppa. As a result, many people believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed in Joppa for a while. He stayed at Simon's house. Simon worked with leather.

### Review

1. What did Peter do after he and John left Samaria? (He visited the believers in Lydda.)
2. What did Peter do for Aeneas? (He healed him.)
3. Did Peter leave after that? (No.)
4. What happened next? (The believers in Joppa asked Peter to come. Their friend Tabitha had just died.)
5. Who was Tabitha? (She was a believer who did good things and helped the poor.)
6. What did Peter do for Tabitha? (He prayed to God and he healed her.)

Next Week  
Peter and Cornelius  
Acts 10:1-11:18

# Preschool Lesson

We've just been learning about Philip and Saul, but let's not forget about the apostles, especially Peter. Let's see what he has been doing.

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Peter went with the believers to Joppa. When they arrived, he went upstairs to the room where Tabitha's body was. Widows were all around the room and they were crying. They showed Peter all the wonderful things Tabitha made while she was alive. Then, Peter sent them all out of the room. He got down on his knees and he prayed to God.

Then, Peter turned towards Tabitha's body and he said, "Tabitha, get up." (Acts 9:40 NIV) She opened her eyes and sat up. Then Peter helped her stand and took her to her friends. Everyone saw that she was alive and people all over Joppa found out. Because of this, many people believed in the Lord.

Peter stayed in Joppa for a while. He stayed at Simon's house. Simon worked with leather.

# Activities

**Memory Verse Activity** - Create symbols or pictures to aid in learning the memory verse. Practice by using the symbols or pictures as flash cards, beginning slowly at first, then speeding up as your students begin to learn the verse.

Sing “Tell the Good News,” “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” “When We Walk with the Lord,” and “The Mission.”

Aeneas had been bedridden for eight years. Make cards for those you know who are shut-ins. Take a trip to visit them and present the cards.

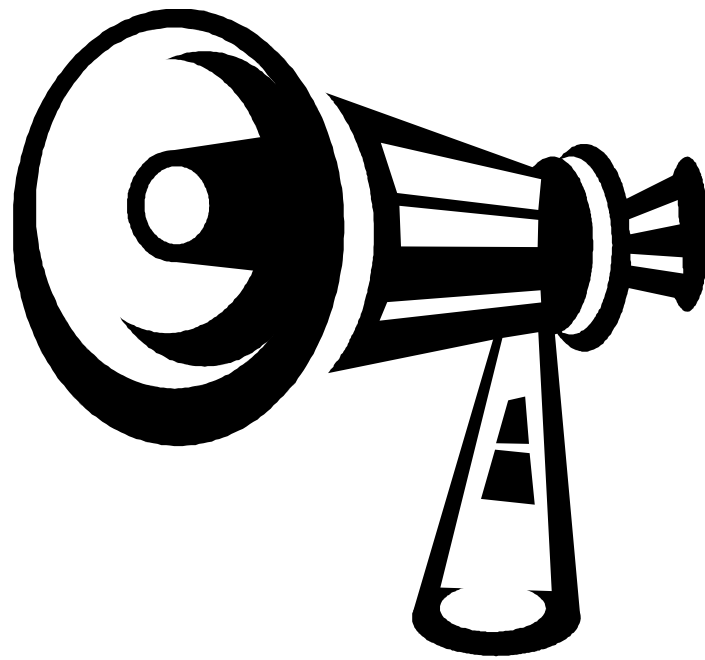
Tabitha made things for the poor. Bring cardstock with holes punched randomly. Provide your students with yarn and a plastic needle. Encourage them to sew something.

Tabitha did good things. Make a list of good things that each student can do around your church. Help them get started.

Tabitha, from our lesson, was also known by Greek speakers as Dorcas. Research your students’ names in a Baby Names book. Share with them how to say their names in other languages.

Visit the believers who didn’t come to church today. Take them an activity packet and share the lesson with them.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, talk about the great cloud of witnesses who surround us, cheering us on, helping us to become more godly. Talk about Philip, Saul, Peter, Tabitha, etc.



Blind people receive sight.

Disabled people walk.

Those who have skin diseases  
are healed.

Deaf people hear.

Those who are dead  
are raised to life.

And the good news is preached  
to those who are poor.

Luke 7:22

# Racing Riddles

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Fill in the blanks to complete the memory verse.

B\_in\_ people receive \_i\_ht.

Di\_ab\_ed people w\_\_ k.

Those who have skin d\_se\_ses are \_ea\_ed.

D\_a\_ people h\_ar.

Those who are \_ea\_

are raised to l\_\_e.

And the \_o\_d n\_\_s is p\_ea\_hed

to those who are p\_o\_.

Luke 7:22

# Racing Riddles

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# Word Search

g b e l i e v s a o p p a g s  
e s t r a m h p t s a e n e a  
t b a p r a z u f g a s e t h  
u p r u r n e t i j h u a u r  
j e k o a y n e e a a c s p e  
o o n a b b s g r u a s a a e  
p i p l a e d a n s e a d n l  
r o o p p l e h d o o g o d b  
a n t e a i l t c n a a i w a  
d h t l y e b i n d n e u a s  
e e e l s v a b t a d n o l i  
r m y e y e s a e a y r a k d  
n d y a w d i t a b i t h a a  
a s t s e d d r e f c h a i n  
p e r t e t h a i h t i b a t

Peter

Lydda

Aeneas

disabled

get up and walk

Sharon

Joppa

Tabitha

died

do good, help poor

Tabitha, get up

many believed

# Word Search

g b e l i e v s a o p p a g s  
 e s t r a m h p t s a e n e a  
 t b a p r a z u f g a s e t h  
 u p r u r n e t i j h u a u r  
 j e k o a y n e e a a c s p e  
 o o n a b b s g r u a s a a e  
 p i p l a e d a n s e a d n l  
 r o o p p l e h d o o g o d b  
 a n t e a i l t c n a a i w a  
 d h t l y e b i n d n e u a s  
 e e e l s v a b t a d n o l i  
 r m y e y e s a e a y r a k d  
 n d y a w d i t a b i t h a a  
 a s t s e d d r e f c h a i n  
 p e r t e t h a i h t i b a t

Peter

Lydda

Aeneas

disabled

get up and walk

Sharon

Joppa

Tabitha

died

do good, help poor

Tabitha, get up

many believed