

Women in the
Bible:
Dorcas
and me

“Your word is lamp
for my feet and a
light for my path.”

Psalms 119:105

Gifted, life of
service, loved



Dorcas

Her Name Means “Gazelle, Beauty, Grace”

Key Scripture: Acts 9:36-42

Introduction

The Bible is full of faith filled stories. Stories of heroes. Sometimes we find among the greats of the Bible some gems, which are only a few verses long, but tell us so much. One of these stories is of Dorcas (Greek) or Tabitha (Aramaic or Hebrew equivalent). Her name means “Gazelle”. Dorcas lived in the seaport of Joppa. But tragedy strikes, and Dorcas gets ill and dies. Peter, who is not far away, is called to Joppa and when he arrives, we see the widows showing him everything Dorcas has made for them. Peter goes to the room she is laid out in and kneels and prays. He says: “Tabitha arise” and she wakes up. And many believed in the Lord after that.



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Discover

- She was a Christian
- Her life of service
- How through her death many believed



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Going Deeper

- 1. How might we know that Dorcas was a Christian? How did she show that to others? (Acts 9:36)
- 2. Her name means Gazelle. When you think of a gazelle what comes to mind? What does your name mean?
- 3. In the Bible we find many verses that speak of doing good for others. Look up the verses and write them out. (Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 4:29; John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Galatians 5:22).



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- 4. When Dorcas died, she was missed immediately. She lived a useful life. How are we living our lives? Is it self-centred or others centred?
- 5. When she was raised from the dead the Bible says: "Many believed in the Lord." Please read John 4 and discover someone else who helps a town believe.
- 6. Doing great works for God does not necessarily mean you have to be in the forefront. Please read two stories of women who worked for God in their unique way. (1 Samuel 25; Acts 16:12-15, 40)



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Words for Today

- 1. What are my gifts? How can I live today using my gifts and talents to help others?
- 2. How can I be more open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life?
- 3. Dorcas was a Christian who took her responsibilities towards others seriously. How can we live our lives this way?
- 4. Name 5 ways you could be more others minded?

- **Questions for Discussion**

- 1. When thinking about our church or group what are things, we can do in our local communities to bring the message of Jesus to a dying world?
- 2. There is a saying: "It's not what you say, it's what you do". Is this true do you think? How might this work in a church setting?
- 3. Even though Dorcas died, her resurrection made many people believe. Sometimes we go through tough situations. Might it be that others are watching us to see how we are coping with stress? What are we showing them?



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- Words of Wisdom

Dorcas lived out her life as one who cared for others. Using her gifts and talents and her money. Even her death and resurrection helped many to accept God. When we are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can do much more than we thought we could ever do. (Galatians 5:25)



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My Prayer for Today

Lord may my life be a life of service to others so that they can see you in me. Open my heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit so I will become all that you want me to be.

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Sharing

The story of Dorcas tells us that whatever gift or talent we have we can use it to God's honour and glory. What are some stories in the Bible that inspire us to be more than we thought possible. What is it that your local community needs?