

CELTIC ADVENT: HOW TO SEW LOVE

November 16, 2025

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Discussion Questions: Dain Smith, Discipleship Minister



Acts 9:36-42

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her

eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage(s) slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. In verse 36 Tabitha (Dorcas) is described as someone who was "devoted to good works and doing acts of charity." The root word for "charity" deals with "showing mercy." When you read this story, is there anyone who comes to mind in your community who is like Tabitha? Do you know anyone who is constantly showing grace and mercy to people and serving people and supporting them? Tell the group a story about this person that demonstrates the compassion and mercy they show to others.
3. After Tabitha died, her entire community gathered around her, and they shared how she had impacted them. It is clear that she was invested in her community. How can we be like Tabitha this

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advent season? What practical things can we do in our communities to invest and restore people's lives? What ways can we make a difference in advent to bring mercy and compassion to those in need?

4. This depiction of a community remembering someone by the tangible things they made is a beautiful representation on how the things we do and make leave an impact. How would you want to be remembered?
5. Peter's response to this crisis is inspiring. When he learns of Tabitha's death, he comes and helps in whatever way he can. Similar to Tabitha, is there anyone in your life that has been like Peter to you? Has there been people who came by your side in a time of mourning or need? How did they help you and comfort you when times were difficult?
6. Stories like this are meant to remember miraculous moments of the past, and also inspire action in our present. Thus, this miracle story of Peter raising Tabitha from the dead "does" more than tell a story, it is also a call to action. Peter says "Tabitha, get up." Her good works of acts of charity are not done, and she is woken up again to continue investing and nurturing her community. How has God been calling you to "get

up?" What good works and acts of charity has God been calling you to participate in recently, and how have you seen God performing new miracles of restoration and redemption in our world?

7. This story ends by saying "This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord," but it doesn't actually tell us how many came to believe in the Lord. Perhaps Tabitha's good works and acts of charity continued in such a way that many believed because of the mercy she showed everyone. Are there any stories in the South Elkhorn community that have inspired your belief in the Lord? What charity and good works in our community have inspired your faith and belief?