#### Lesson 10:

#### Peter Heals Aenas and Raises Dorcas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Acts 9

MEMORY WORK:

Mark 16:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants us to use the talents He has given us to help others any way we can.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter became a leader in the Church. He did wonderful things while he taught others about Jesus. Today we are going to learn about two times he helped people while teaching about Jesus.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As many people who heard about Jesus decided to be baptized and become Christians, the Church continued to grow (Acts 9:31). Peter preached the very first sermon about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. He had also gone with John to join Philip (i.e., the “deacon,” not the apostle) in Samaria when the Gospel was preached there. Peter continued to travel throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, telling others about Jesus wherever he went. Many of those who heard him believed, and the Church continued to grow.
2. From Jerusalem, Peter went to the town of Lydda to visit the saints (i.e., the Christians there). There, Peter met a man named Aeneas who had been unable to move for eight long years. There were no hospitals or special services for handicapped people in those days. They could not get a job or take care of their families; they depended on the kindness of strangers to get through each day. They usually spent their days lying on their mats near busy places, begging for money from passersby. Peter had been with Jesus for three years and had seen Him heal people just like Aeneas. As Jesus had done so many times before, Peter had compassion on the poor man and healed him. “Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed,” he said. The healing was immediate.
3. About 10 miles away, in the city of **Joppa**, a wonderful woman named **Dorcas** died. She was well-known and much-loved for all the kind things she did for others, like making clothes for people who needed them, especially widows. But she suddenly got sick and died. Everyone that knew her was very sad. As was their custom, women of the town washed her body to get it ready for burial. Then they put the body in an upstairs room. They heard that the great apostle Peter was in **Lydda**, probably because he had healed Aeneas. They sent two men to Lydda to beg Peter to come to Joppa as quickly as possible.

**HISTORICAL NOTES:**

* Joppa was a Roman port which is part of modern day Tel Aviv-Jaffa.
* Upstairs room: a room built on the top of a house
* While Lydda and Joppa were towns, Sharon (9:35) was a plain that extended from Lydda northward to Mount Carmel.

Bodies had to be buried right away, usually before sundown on the same day that the death occurred. The journey to and from Lydda probably took 3-4 hours each way. So, even if Dorcas died early in the day, the messengers and townspeople who loved her felt that Peter had no time to lose.

**NOTE:** Dorcas was her Greek name. She was also called Tabitha (the Syriac translation). Both

names mean “gazelle” or “antelope.”

1. When Peter arrived at the house where Dorcas’ body was being kept, he found many sad people there. Remind the children about how Jesus felt when He came to Mary and Martha’s house after Lazarus died. The widows showed Peter some of the clothes Dorcas had made. Peter sent them all out of the room and prayed, just like Elisha had done at the Shunnamite woman’s house, and just as Jesus did at Jairus’ house. Then he called her by name and told her to get up. Immediately (just as Aeneas was healed), Dorcas opened her eyes and got out of bed! Peter called in the people who were anxiously waiting outside so that they could see that Dorcas was alive again. Can you imagine how excited and amazed they would have been?
2. News spread quickly about what had happened to Aeneas and Dorcas. These miracles, like all the others in the Bible, were done to prove that the things taught by God’s helpers (prophets, apostles, etc.) were from God, Himself. Many people believed in Jesus because of what Peter taught and the miracles he did with God’s help. Peter did what he could to help people—no matter who they were—with the talents and special abilities given to him by God.
3. Aeneas was probably a poor beggar who didn’t have many friends. We don’t really know if Dorcas was poor or not, but we do know she had many friends. Both of them needed help. It is easy to help our parents or friends. It isn’t hard to help people who live near us, worship with us, and look like us. But it might not be as easy to help those who are very poor (homeless, dirty, etc.). God has given us talents and blessings that He wants us to use to help other people—no matter who they are.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file.
* Pieces of clothing and fabric – turn clothes inside out to show seams and stitches and help explain how clothes are put together.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Prepare a “sewing card” for each child (in the shape of a robe or shirt, for example) out of heavy cardstock. Laminate if you would like to keep in the lesson file. Provide shoe strings (for athletic shoes) for the “sewing” activity.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)
2. Continue talking about the things we have that we take for granted (running water, plumbing, electricity, enough food to eat, air conditioned houses, etc.) and people who don’t have those things. It would be a good idea to illustrate what we do have, versus what other people (in other countries and in our own) do not have.
3. By our standards, Jesus and His apostles were poor. Some of His followers were wealthy (like Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and the women who helped Him financially), but most of the people who followed His teachings and listened to His sermons were very poor. Encourage the children to think about how we might react to Jesus if He came to our homes, to our schools, or to our Church buildings.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Color the Dorcas page with the traceable words to keep for the NT Binders.
* Help the children make and/or decorate get well cards for the sick and cards for the shut-ins of your congregation.

### Review Questions

1. After Peter left Samaria where did he go?
   1. Lydda
2. Who did he meet at Lydda?
   1. A man named Aeneas
3. Where did Peter meet Aeneas?
   1. At the gates to the city, where he was asking for money or food
4. What was wrong with Aeneas?
   1. He had been unable to move for eight years.
5. What did Peter do for Aeneas?
   1. He healed him.
6. Was he healed right away?
   1. Yes, immediately
7. What did Dorcas do for a living?
   1. She made clothes for the widows and children.
8. What happened to Dorcas?
   1. She suddenly became sick and died.
9. How did Peter find out about Dorcas?
   1. Her friends sent two men to find Peter and to bring him to her house.
10. Why did they want to bring Peter to her house?
    1. They had heard of the wonderful healing the apostles had done, and they knew he could raise Dorcas from the dead.
11. Where did Peter find Dorcas when he arrived at her house?
    1. An upper room
12. What did he tell the people to do?
    1. To clear out except for himself and Dorcas
13. What did Peter do to Dorcas?
    1. He called her name and told her to get up, and she did.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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