

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 13, 2007

Passage: Acts 9:32-43

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 4:10-11

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:32-35.** Where is Peter ministering in these verses? How did the gospel get to these areas?
- (b) Were these churches established by the apostles (Acts 8:1-2)? What does this tell us about our responsibility to share the gospel (Acts 1:8)? What did Paul say about the faith of the believers in Rome (Romans 1:8)? What would the Lord say about your faith?
- (c) How is Aeneas described in verse 33? Compare this with the description of Tabitha in verse 36? What might this tell us about Aeneas?
- (d) Compare this miracle to the miracles in Matthew 9:1-8 and Mark 2:3-11. What are the similarities in these healings? How do they compare (contrast) with healing ministries today?
- (e) What was the result of this healing? What term is used to describe this conversion (also 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)? What does this tell you about the nature of conversion?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:31-35 and Romans 1:8. Talk about how churches are started. How were the churches in Samaria and Lydda begun? How was your church started? Take some time to pray for church-planters around the world that the Lord might bless their efforts and new churches might be formed and established.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:36-42.** What two things in verse 36 indicate that Tabitha was a believer?
- (b) What is the role of good deeds in the lives of believers (Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 5:16; Titus 2:14)?
- (c) What group had Tabitha mainly ministered to (verse 39)? What does this tell you about her “religion” (James 1:27)?
- (d) What did Jesus tell his disciples in Luke 14:12-14? Why is it important to minister to those that cannot give back (Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 6:32-35)?
- (e) How are we told to minister to others in 1 John 3:16-18? How was this evident in Tabitha’s death (Revelation 14:13)?
- (a) *Family:* Read Acts 9:36-42 and Luke 14:12-14. Who do most people like to minister to? Why? What kinds of people did Jesus tell his disciples to reach out to? What group did Tabitha minister to? Ask the Lord to show you someone that you as a family can minister to this week.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:36-42 again.** Compare this miracle with the one in Mark 5:35-43. What are the similarities in these healings? How do they compare (contrast) with healing ministries today?
- (b) Compare the two healings in chapter 9. What is different about what Luke records that Peter did in these healings (Acts 9:34; Acts 9:40)?
- (c) Where might he have learned this lesson (John 11:33-44)?
- (d) Certainly Luke does not mean that Peter did not pray in healing Aeneas. What lesson is Luke teaching believers (John 15:5; John 15:7; John 16:24)?
- (e) Read Ephesians 3:20-21. What should be our attitude toward the possibility of God healing others?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:36-42 and Ephesians 3:20-21. Talk about the power of prayer. Why don’t we pray sometimes? Why is prayer essential in *any* kind of ministry? What are some things that seem impossible that you need to be praying about? Who are some people who need to know the Lord that you need to pray for?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 9:43.** Who did Peter stay with in Joppa? What was his occupation?
- (b) What do these passages say (Leviticus 11:27-28; Leviticus 11:31-32; Leviticus 11:37-40; Numbers 19:11-16)? How would this apply to Simon the Tanner?
- (c) How should this have affected Peter? What does this show us about how God was *preparing* Peter for his ministry to the Gentiles in Acts 10?
- (d) How do you think the miracles of Acts 9 might also have prepared Peter for the miracle of Acts 10:44-48?
- (e) Which miracle in Acts 9 and 10 was the greatest (Acts 9:35; Acts 9:42; Luke 10:17-20)? Explain.
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 9:43 and Luke 10:17-20. Talk together about the miracles that occur in Acts 9. How many were there? Did you forget to include the salvation of many? Most do! Why is salvation the greatest miracle of all, even greater than someone being raised from the dead? Take a moment to pray together for someone who needs to know the Lord.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.** What does Peter tell us about our spiritual gifts for ministry? Does everyone have a spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)?
- (b) What does Peter mean by calling us “good stewards of the manifold grace of God?” What is a steward? What is required of a steward (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)?
- (c) How should we use our gifts (1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6-8)?
- (d) How did Tabitha use her gifts? How has God gifted you? How are you using your gifts for His glory?
- (e) How did the saints and widows remember Tabitha? What will people remember you for when you die?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. Discuss spiritual ministry. Does God prepare all His people so that they can serve Him by serving others? What are some ways that God prepared Peter for ministry? What are some things God has used in your life to prepare you for His ministry? Pray that God will show you how you can use your gifts and abilities to serve Him this week.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Acts 9:32-43. What kind of ministry does Peter participate in? What can we learn from him about dependence on God for ministry? What ministry did Tabitha have? What can we learn from this passage about the importance of every ministry? What does 1 Peter 4:10-11 teach us about why we should use our gifts in ministry? Pray for your church that everyone in the Body might desire to be used by God.

**DATE:** May 13, 2007

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***The Preparation of Peter***

*“If anyone ministers, let him do it with the ability which God supplies...”*