

BE VULNERABLE

#6 Dorcas wasn't a famous or powerful persona, but her life had a profound impact on her community, and her passing was marked by tremendous grief. Who are some "ordinary" people who have made a big impact on your faith? What does their example tell you about God's care for "ordinary" people?

#7 If God worked through Peter to heal Aeneas and Dorcas, He can work through us too. What's one way you want to be more available for God to use you this week, even in ordinary ways? How can your Life Group support you in that?

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Commit to pray for at least 3 prayer requests from your Life Group)

✓

✓

✓



HOLY
SPIRIT

Pastor Brandon Babcock, Ph.D.
February 2, 2025
Holy Spirit: Part 12
springfieldfaithcenter.org/sermons

HERE AND THERE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 9:32-43

Peter in Lydda:

Acts 9:32-35, Luke 5:17-26, Mark 2:1-12

- The resurrected Jesus is working through Peter to **heal** the sick.

Peter in Joppa:

Acts 9:36-43, Luke 8:40-56, Mark 5:21-43

- The resurrected Jesus is working through Peter to **raise** the dead.

Lessons:

1. About Miracles...
 - ✓ Miracles are signs of **hope** that bring people to **faith**.
 - ✓ Miracles are full of **mystery**.
2. The way Jesus worked **back then** is the way Jesus works **today**.
3. **Ordinary** people are **extraordinary** to God.

LIFE GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

For the week of February 2, 2025

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

BE FRIENDLY

#1 If you could instantly master any ordinary skill (like baking the perfect cookie, fixing a leaky faucet, or remembering everyone's name), what would it be and why?

#2 In this passage, Peter visits two different people—Aeneas and Dorcas. What do you notice about their situations and the way they are described? What details stand out to you, or what seems most meaningful?

BE OPEN

#3 Aeneas had been paralyzed for eight years, and Dorcas had passed away; both seemed like hopeless situations, but Jesus does wonders in that hopelessness. What do these stories teach us about the nature of hope? Do these stories make you think about your own interaction with hope, and how it plays out in your relationship with God?

#4 After Dorcas was raised from the dead, we're told that the story became known all over Joppa and that many believed in the Lord. Faith plays a role in initiating this story, but it also grows from what we read here. How do you define faith, and how do you see that being demonstrated in these events?

#5 Pastor Brandon talked about the element of mystery in relation to God's will, and in understanding why he does certain things. Quietly, to yourself, or out loud, as a group, read the following scriptures:

Ecclesiastes 11:5 (NLT)

⁵Just as you cannot understand the path of the wind or the mystery of a tiny baby growing in its mother's womb, so you cannot understand the activity of God, who does all things.

Job 42:1-3 (NLT)

¹Then Job replied to the LORD: ²"I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. ³You asked, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)

¹²Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

The mystery, or the unknowability, of God's will can be hard for us at times. It can make God seem hard to trust, or can even make him seem unkind. Do these verses, and the many like them, make it easy for you to trust God, or do they make it harder?

How do you handle the knowledge that God doesn't always do the things that we think would be good for him to do?