

Questions: Week Eighteen

Aeneas and Dorcas - Acts 9:32-43

Topics: <u>Believers</u>, <u>Death</u>, <u>Goodness</u>, <u>Healing</u>, <u>Instructions</u>, <u>Jesus Christ</u>, <u>Miracles</u>, <u>Poor</u>, <u>Prayer</u>, <u>Witnessing</u>

Open It

- 1. *What are some of your most treasured memories of a late friend, relative, or coworker?
- 2. What would you find easy or hard about helping inner-city poor people find jobs?
- 3. What would you find easy or hard about helping paraplegics learn to live with their disabilities?

- 4. Where did Peter's mission work take him? (9:32)
- 5. Whom did Peter visit in Lydda? (9:33)
- 6. How was Peter able to cure Aeneas? (9:34)
- 7. What effect did the healing of Aeneas have on the residents of Lydda and Sharon? (9:35)
- 8. What did Tabitha (Dorcas) do in Joppa? (9:36)
- 9. *What happened to Dorcas? (<u>9:37</u>)
- 10. Where was Joppa in relation to Lydda? (9:38)
- 11. Why was Peter summoned by the disciples to Joppa? (9:38)
- 12. Where was Peter taken when he arrived in Joppa? (9:39)
- 13. How was the miracle of raising the woman to life performed? (9:40)
- 14. *What did Peter do when he was alone with the dead woman? (9:40-41)
- 15. After Peter helped Tabitha to her feet, what did he do next? (9:41)
- 16. *How did the miracle of raising Tabitha further the kingdom of God? (9:42)
- 17. With whom did Peter stay in Joppa? (9:43)

- 18. Why are the signs and wonders of the early church largely absent from the Christian community today?
- 19. *Why do some Christians suffer and die, while others are healed of their sickness?
- 20. In what ways would you like to follow the example of Dorcas?
- 21. When you die, what group of people besides your family will miss you most?
- 22. If Peter were visiting your church, whom would you ask him to help?

- 23. What areas of your life need God's healing today?
- 24. How can you help a needy person this week?
- 25. *What can you do to help a widow who needs assistance?

Cornelius Calls for Peter - <u>Acts 10:1-8</u>

Topics: Angels, Generosity, Gifts, God, Instructions, Leadership, Poor, Prayer

Open It

- 1. *What would be appealing or unappealing to you about a career in the armed forces?
- 2. If you were in military service, where would you like to be stationed?
- 3. As an army officer, what would you like or not like about commanding a company of soldiers?

- 4. Who was Cornelius? (10:1)
- 5. Where did Cornelius live? (<u>10:1</u>)
- 6. What did Cornelius do for a living? (10:1)
- 7. How did the Roman officer and his family relate to God? (10:2)
- 8. How did Cornelius help those in need? (10:2)
- 9. What did Cornelius experience one afternoon? (10:3)
- 10. How did Cornelius respond to the angel? (10:4)
- 11. *How did the angel affirm the centurion's life-style? (10:4)
- 12. *What did the angel command Cornelius to do? (10:5-6)
- 13. *When the angel left, what did Cornelius do? (10:7-8)
- 14. Who did Cornelius send to Joppa? (<u>10:7-8</u>)

- 15. *What neighbors and friends remind you of Cornelius?
- 16. Why is it that many kind, "God-fearing" people do not have a personal relationship with Christ?
- 17. *How do you need to be more like Cornelius?
- 18. How do you know when God is speaking to you?
- 19. When do you act on what God tells you to do?
- 20. How can you be more open to God taking command of your life?

- 21. *This week, what can you do to imitate the centurion's God-fearing life-style?
- 22. What can you give to someone who is in need?

Peter's Vision - Acts 10:9-23

Topics: <u>Acceptance</u>, <u>Culture</u>, <u>Heaven</u>, <u>Holy Spirit</u>, <u>Hospitality</u>, <u>Instructions</u>, <u>Prayer</u>, <u>Respect</u>

Open It

- 1. *At an ethnic food festival, would you try a variety of international dishes or immediately seek out the hot dog stand? Why?
- 2. If you lived overseas, what about your life-style would you try to maintain, and how would you try to fit in with the nationals?

- 3. Where was Peter when the centurion's men approached Joppa? (10:9)
- 4. What was Peter doing? (10:9)
- 5. How did Peter feel? (10:10)
- 6. *What did Peter experience while food was being prepared for him? (10:10-16)
- 7. What did Peter see in a vision? (10:11-12)
- 8. What did the voice instruct Peter to do? (10:13)
- 9. Why did Peter protest against the command to eat? (10:14)
- 10. How were Peter's objections silenced? (10:15)
- 11. Why was this incident repeated three times? (10:16)
- 12. *What happened while Peter was wondering about the vision? (10:17-20)
- 13. *How was Peter prepared for the messengers? (10:19-20)
- 14. What did Peter say to the messengers? (10:21)
- 15. What did the messengers tell Peter? (10:22)
- 16. How did Peter respond to the messengers' request? (10:23)

- 17. How do you think Peter felt when he was told to kill and eat unclean food?
- 18. *What are some reasons we reject or avoid certain people?
- 19. Peter's dream was unexpected; how does God deal with us in surprising ways?
- 20. How does God give us clear directions through other Christians?
- 21. How did Peter's hospitality to the messengers show that he was beginning to put into practice what he had learned in the vision?
- 22. How should your church treat visitors who are different from the rest of the congregation?
- 23. *How can you show acceptance of those who don't "fit in"?

- 24. *What new relationships can you ask God to bring into your life this week?
- 25. How can you become more open-minded toward others?
- 26. Starting today, how can you help another Christian move beyond his or her cultural limits?

Peter at Cornelius' House - Acts 10:24-48

Topics: <u>Acceptance</u>, <u>Forgiveness</u>, <u>God</u>, <u>Good News</u>, <u>Holy Spirit</u>, <u>Jesus Christ</u>, <u>People</u>, <u>Power</u>, <u>Praise</u>, <u>Prayer</u>, <u>Prejudice</u>, <u>Resurrection</u>, <u>Witnessing</u>

Open It

- 1. If you could have been born and raised in another culture, in which one would you like to have been raised? Why?
- 2. *If a family from another country moved in next door, how might you welcome them to the neighborhood?
- 3. When was the first time you faced prejudice?

- 4. Who was with Peter when he arrived in Caesarea? (10:23-24)
- 5. How had Cornelius prepared for Peter's visit? (10:24-25)
- 6. How did Peter refuse the centurion's homage? (10:25-26)
- 7. Who was inside the centurion's house? (10:27)
- 8. What did Peter say to show that he had learned what God had wanted him to learn? (10:28-29)
- 9. What did Peter ask? (10:29)
- 10. How did Cornelius respond? (10:30-33)
- 11. *In what way was Peter's understanding of God changed by his vision? (10:34-35)
- 12. *What was Peter's message to the group? (10:34-43)
- 13. How was Peter's message interrupted? (10:44-46)
- 14. *Why did Peter suddenly stop talking? (<u>10:44-46</u>)
- 15. What happened to the non-Jewish believers to show the Jewish believers that God accepted them? (<u>10:44-46</u>)
- 16. How did the circumcised believers react to what happened? (10:45-46)
- 17. How did Peter sum up what had happened? (10:47-48)
- 18. What did Peter command? (10:48)
- 19. In what ways was fellowship between believing Jews and believing non-Jews improved during Peter's stay in Caesarea? (<u>10:48</u>)

- 20. *How do cultural and religious barriers hinder growth in our faith?
- 21. *If you had a vision like Peter's, what deep-seated prejudices would you be called on to get rid of?
- 22. How would Cornelius and his group fare at your church?
- 23. Why might someone visiting your church for the first time feel unwelcome?
- 24. What could you and others do to make people of all kinds feel welcome in your church?
- 25. What cultural and religious barriers hinder growth in your church?
- 26. How is your pastor like Peter?
- 27. How could your pastor benefit from an encounter with Cornelius and Peter?
- 28. How can your church be open to the power of the Holy Spirit in a new way?
- 29. If someone asked you to tell them about your faith, what would you say?

- 30. *What is the first step you could take to show respect for a racial or cultural group that is different from you?
- 31. How can you be an effective witness for Christ this week among people who are different from you?