

# Acts 9:32-43

## September 14, 2025



### CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

### MAIN POINT

God gives His people different and important gifts He desires to use in the community of faith for His glory.

### INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What have you learned about Christian community in our study of Acts?**

**How are we called to live in community today? What type of impact should we be making on our community?**

**Who is someone in your Christian community that has made a big impact on you personally?**

We've been following along with the activities of the early church in our study of Acts, and today we are going to read about Peter's travel and ministry. In our passage, we



will see a beautiful example of a life in Christian community well-lived and think about the impact we can have on those God has placed in our lives.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 9:32-35.

**What does Peter's activity tell us about his priority of others knowing Christ?**

**How did Peter model Jesus's ministry in these verses?**

**What was the outcome of Peter's ministry efforts in this passage?**

We have been reading a lot about Saul's journey, but our passage transitions to an update on Peter's ministry. Luke wrote that Peter had been "traveling from place to place" (v.32) ministering to those around him. In His earthly ministry, Jesus also traveled broadly, "teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness among the people" (Matthew 4:23). Jesus taught, shared the gospel message, and looked for needs He could meet and then met them. We see Peter following that model in this passage.

In his travels, Peter met a paralyzed man who had been bedridden for eight years. Peter knew he could help, and so he did. He healed the man in Jesus's name and the man immediately arose. Note that Peter directly gave the credit for the healing to Jesus Christ. Peter knew where this power came from, and unlike Simon the sorcerer, who we met earlier in Acts 8, sought no credit for himself.

Following the Lord working through Peter to heal the paralytic, we see the fruit of the Holy Spirit's work in the hearts of the men and women in these towns as they "turned to the Lord" (v.35). When we are walking faithfully with God, living as He desires, God often also works in others around us.

 ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 9:36-43.

**How did the disciples in Joppa show faith in these verses? How did Peter?**

**What does the text say about Tabitha, and what impressions do you get about her character?**

**What was the result of the miracle God used Peter to perform?**



Don't miss how Luke coupled a passage about a miracle involving a man back-to-back with a passage describing a miracle involving a woman. Women held an active and important role in the early church, and they still do today! In this passage, we meet Tabitha. The text calls her a "disciple," and though she was not one of the twelve, she was an active Christ follower.

Tabitha's healing is reminiscent of other healings in Scripture, like Elisha's healing of the Shulamite woman's son in 2 Kings 4 (he, too, was healed in an upper room), or Jesus's healing of Jairus's daughter in Mark 5 (Jesus's words to her were similar to Peter's words here). Once again, we see the Lord working powerfully through His faithful and obedient servants.

Note Luke's description of Tabitha, that "she was always doing good works and acts of charity" (v.36)—what a wonderful, Christ-like legacy! When Peter arrived on the scene, he was met with the widows she ministered to. Evidently her ministry involved making clothes for widows, and "all the widows" (v.39) had gathered to help make a case for Peter to intercede. Some New Testament scholars even believe she may have been a businesswoman who employed the widows, giving them a way to provide for themselves.

The path of ministry God had given Peter and Tabitha were different, but both valuable and used by the Lord in powerful ways. Peter's ministry involved powerful teaching and healings in public, while Tabitha's ministry was quieter and more private, ministering to a vulnerable group of people. Don't make the mistake of thinking the only valuable gifts are public ones that often involve a platform, like teaching and leadership. No, God gifts us all differently, and each of our gifts are important. He desires to use those gifts, like Tabitha's gift of making clothes to take care of the widows in her community, for His glory.

Tabitha's life and ministry glorified God, and so did Peter's healing of her: "This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord" (v.42).

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**What are some ways we learned both Peter and Tabitha modeled Christ in today's study?**

**How are you using your God-given gifts to serve our church and community?  
How can we support one another in this?**

**What connection is there in today's passage about ministering in Jesus's name and others coming to know Him?**



## **PRAYER**

*Close your time together by sharing prayer requests, praying for each other, and the group.*

Thank God for how He has gifted you in ways that are meant to be used in your local community and church. Ask for His help as you consider how to use your gifts to better serve those God has placed in your life.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

*Encourage your group to look ahead as we continue the series on Acts next week.*

**September 21, 2025 --- Acts 10:1-48**

## **COMMENTARY**

**Acts 9:32-43**

**9:32** The saints at Lydda may have been there since Pentecost and the time of persecution that had scattered believers throughout Judea (8:1). It is also possible that they traced their origins to Philip's ministry (8:40).

**9:33–35** Again we see that the apostles never hesitated to give all credit for healing miracles to Jesus Christ (3:6). Indirect evidence for this is found in the fact that the people in Lydda and Sharon turned in faith to the Lord rather than his apostolic messengers when they witnessed the healing of Aeneas.

**9:36** Tabitha (Gk Dorcas, lit gazelle) is called a disciple. She was not one of the twelve apostles, but she was clearly an active follower of Jesus.

**9:37–38** So powerfully had God worked wonders through Peter and the other apostles that even when Dorcas died and had been ceremonially washed and placed ... in a room upstairs for viewing, Christians in Joppa did not give up hope but instead sent for Peter.

**9:39–42** Peter's words to the dead woman were almost identical to the words Jesus spoke to Jairus's daughter, Talitha kum (Mk 5:41).

**9:43** Tanners were often considered impure because of their contact with dead animals. This indicates that either Jewish law on this practice had relaxed by this era, or else that Peter was already enjoying freedom from the Jewish law because of his liberty in Christ (10:6, 32).

