

# Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 9:32-43

## For Sunday June 12, 2022

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### Acts 9:32–43 (ESV)

#### The Healing of Aeneas

<sup>32</sup> Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. <sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose. <sup>35</sup> And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

#### Dorcas Restored to Life

<sup>36</sup> Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, “Please come to us without delay.” <sup>39</sup> So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

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1. Acts 9:32 and 41 mention the saints in Lydda and Joppa; this is the first time Christians are called saints in Acts. When the Bible calls Christians saints, the idea isn't of a super-perfect people; the idea is of a people who are different. Saints are set apart from the world at large; they are distinctive.

How did you live this past week in a way that was different? How were you set apart from the world?

2. What are the effects of the healing of Aeneas? How did it effect the witnesses of the healing?

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3. What is your experience with healing? Have you or someone you know been healed?
4. Compare verses 32-35 with verses 36-43. What is similar and what is different about the two healings? Now compare these Tabitha's healings with the healing in Luke 8:49-56.
5. We see Peter imitating the ministry of Jesus in this passage. How are you imitating Jesus' ministry? Or, how would you like God to use you for the Kingdom? Has He called you to something specific? If so, would you be interested in talking to someone in leadership about it?
6. Peter was ready and prepared for both ministry appointments in this passage. Are you ready for the ministry opportunities and appointments that God has for you this week?
7. Peter stays with a man named Simon for some length of time. (V. 43) It's noteworthy that Luke adds Simon's profession, "a tanner," to his name. Tanners routinely touched dead creatures and would have been considered ritually unclean for Jews.

Why do you think Luke added this? What message did Peter send to the early Christian community by staying in Simon's home? What kingdom work are you afraid to do because of what others will think? Why?