

Tabitha (Dorcas): A Study on Compassion and Resurrection



Explore the life and legacy of Tabitha (Dorcas) across 7 days, focusing on compassion, community, and God's power to bring life.

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Introduction

The story of Tabitha, also known as Dorcas, found in Acts 9:36–42, offers a profound lesson on compassion and resurrection. She was a disciple known for her kindness, generosity, and service to others, especially the poor and widows. This study plan invites you to explore who Tabitha was, the significance of her life and death, and how Peter's miraculous act of raising her from the dead points to God's life-giving power and love.

Throughout these seven days, you will journey with Tabitha's story as a lens to understand Christian service, the power of community prayers, and the hope we have in Christ's resurrection. As we dive into scripture and reflect, may your heart be stirred to embrace a deeper compassion and faith, knowing that God brings life even from the darkest moments.

Let's learn from Tabitha's unwavering generosity, the earnest prayers of the early church, and Peter's boldness in faith. Together, these elements reveal a God who cherishes His people and works powerfully through His followers to manifest love and life. 🙌





Day 1: 🌿 Introduction to Tabitha: A Life of Compassion



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Your Verse

Acts 9:36 – "In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Galatians 6:10 – "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..."*
- *1 John 3:17 – "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"*



Day 1: 🌿 Introduction to Tabitha: A Life of Compassion

Devotional: Living a Life of Compassion and Service

Tabitha's life is a vivid example of faithful service. In a world that often prioritizes self-interest, Tabitha stands out for her continuous acts of kindness and generosity toward those in need. 'She was always doing good and helping the poor' (Acts 9:36). Her reputation among the believers in Joppa and beyond was one of deep love expressed in practical ways.

Compassion is more than just feeling pity; it prompts action. Tabitha's life challenges us to consider the ways we can serve those around us consistently. How might your life reflect such ongoing kindness? The early church recognized the importance of supporting one another, especially the marginalized, and Tabitha modeled this beautifully.

As we begin this study, pray for a heart like Tabitha's—open, generous, and eager to serve without hesitation. Her story is not just about one woman but about the impact one faithful life can have on a community.



Reflect and Apply

1. What areas of your life could reflect more compassion like Tabitha's?

2. How does serving others impact your faith journey?

3. In what ways can you cultivate a consistent habit of doing good?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you helped someone in need. How did it affect you?

2. List three practical ways you can serve others this week.

3. Reflect on what compassion means to you personally.



Day 1: 🌿 Introduction to Tabitha: A Life of Compassion

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for Tabitha's example of a compassionate heart. Help me to reflect her love through action. Teach me to see those in need with eyes of mercy and to respond with open hands. May my life be a testimony of Your kindness and grace to others. Strengthen me to serve faithfully and joyfully, knowing that every small act matters to You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏❤️✨





Day 2: 🙏 The Power of Community Prayer



Day 2: 🙏 The Power of Community Prayer

Your Verse

Acts 9:38 – "Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them."

Supporting Scriptures

- *James 5:16 – "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*
- *Acts 1:14 – "They all joined together constantly in prayer..."*



Devotional: Faith in Action Through Prayerful Community

The community's grief after Tabitha's death shows the deep connections she had built. The widows stood around Peter, not only mourning but also holding up the evidence of her loving work—robes and clothing she had made. This speaks volumes about her impact.

Prayer played a central role in the early church's life. Their prayers were a source of strength, comfort, and power. When Peter arrived, the heartfelt prayers of the community surrounded the situation. This communal prayer was not passive; it was active in faith, expecting God to move.

In your own community, are you part of a group that prays for and supports one another? The story encourages us to be intentional in standing with others in prayer, especially in times of loss or need. Praying together helps build faith and invites God's intervention.



Day 2: 🙏 The Power of Community Prayer

Reflect and Apply

1. How has community prayer impacted your life or faith?

2. Are there people in your life you can support through prayer right now?

3. What does it mean to you that God works through communal faith?



Day 2: 🙏 The Power of Community Prayer

Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a prayer answered in your life or community. How did it strengthen you?

2. Make a list of people or causes you want to commit to pray for regularly.

3. Describe what it feels like to pray with others.



Day 2: 🙏 The Power of Community Prayer

Prayer for Today

Father, thank You for the gift of community and the power of prayer. Help me to be part of a faithful group that lifts others up and walks together in faith. Teach me to pray not only for myself but for those around me, especially in difficult times. May Your Spirit unite us in hope and trust, knowing You hear and answer. *Amen.* 🙏 🏠 🤝





Day 3: ✨ Peter's Role in God's Miracle



Your Verse

Acts 9:40 – "Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 5:13 – "When he had said this, he touched the man's hand, and the fever left him."*
- *John 11:43-44 – "Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'... and the dead man came out."*



Day 3: ✨ Peter's Role in God's Miracle

Devotional: Bold Faith That Invokes God's Power

Peter's approach to Tabitha's death was bold and filled with faith. After praying, he spoke the word of life directly, commanding Tabitha to arise. This act shows the authority given by Christ to His apostles and the power of prayer combined with obedience.

God often calls us to step out in faith in difficult or impossible situations. Like Peter, we might be asked to speak, pray, or act in ways that defy natural expectations. The resurrection power of God is not limited to biblical times; it remains available to us today as we trust and obey.

Reflect on what it means to pray boldly, knowing God is able to bring life, restoration, and hope even in death-like circumstances. Peter's miracle was a sign—God is the God of resurrection and new beginnings.



Reflect and Apply

1. What prevents you from praying boldly in difficult situations?

2. How can Peter's example encourage you to step out in faith?

3. Where do you need God's resurrection power in your life now?



Day 3: ✨ Peter's Role in God's Miracle

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you saw God act miraculously.

2. List fears or doubts you want to give to God in prayer.

3. Describe a situation where you feel called to pray boldly.



Day 3: ✨ Peter's Role in God's Miracle

Prayer for Today

Lord, increase my faith like Peter's—bold and unwavering. Teach me to trust Your resurrection power in every situation, even those that seem hopeless. Help me to pray faithfully and expect You to work wonders beyond what I imagine. May my words and actions reflect Your life-giving Spirit. *Thank You for being the God of new beginnings.* Amen. 🙌🔥🙏





Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity



Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity

Your Verse

Acts 9:39 – "Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed." (This highlights the moment before the miracle, reflecting faith and humility after Tabitha's generous life.)

Supporting Scriptures

- *2 Corinthians 9:7 – "God loves a cheerful giver."*
- *Proverbs 11:25 – "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."*



Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity

Devotional: Generosity That Leaves a Lasting Impact

Tabitha's generous spirit left a profound imprint on her community. Her clothing made for the poor was treasured, and many mourned her loss deeply. Generosity is more than material giving—it's a reflection of God's love flowing through us.

True generosity requires humility and joy. Peter's kneeling in prayer before raising Tabitha demonstrates dependence on God's grace and strength.

Consider what legacy your generosity might leave. Is it filled with grace, humility, and joy? When we give, truly give from the heart, it honors God and blesses others in meaningful ways.



Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you currently express generosity in your life?

2. What motivates you to give—obligation or joy?

3. How might you grow in cheerful and humble giving?



Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity

Journaling Prompts

1. Recall a time when your generosity impacted someone positively.

2. List ways you can be more generous with your time, talents, or treasures.

3. Write a prayer asking God to grow a generous heart in you.



Day 4: ❤️ The Legacy of Generosity

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the example of Tabitha's generous heart. Teach me to give cheerfully and humbly, relying on Your strength and grace. May my giving bring glory to You and blessing to others. Help me to trust that as I refresh others, You will refresh me. *In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.* ❤️ 🙏 🌿





Day 5: ✨ Resurrection as a Sign of Hope



Day 5: ✨ Resurrection as a Sign of Hope

Your Verse

Acts 9:41 – "Peter gave her his hand and helped her up. Then the believers called in their friends and neighbors, and Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a man named Simon."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 6:4 – "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life."*
- *1 Peter 1:3 – "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*



Day 5: ✨ Resurrection as a Sign of Hope

Devotional: New Life and Living Hope in Christ

The resurrection of Tabitha was a powerful sign of God's living hope. When Peter helped her to her feet, it symbolized not only physical life restored but hope renewed for all who witnessed it.

In Christ, death does not have the final say. Tabitha's story echoes the greater resurrection of Jesus, pointing us to the eternal hope and new life offered to all who believe.

Reflect on the hope that resurrection brings to your life. It promises restoration, renewal, and the assurance that God is actively at work to bring life from death and joy from sorrow.



Reflect and Apply

1. What does the resurrection mean to you personally?

2. How does hope in Christ help you face difficult circumstances?

3. In what ways can you share the hope of resurrection with others?



Day 5: ✨ Resurrection as a Sign of Hope

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when hope sustained you through trials.

2. List ways Jesus' resurrection gives meaning to your life.

3. Describe how you can encourage others with the message of new life.



Day 5: ✨ Resurrection as a Sign of Hope

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You for the hope we have in the resurrection of Jesus. Help me embrace this hope daily, trusting in Your power to renew and restore. May I live as a witness of Your life-giving Spirit, sharing hope with those in despair. Thank You for the promise of new beginnings and eternal life. *Amen.*



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection

Your Verse

Romans 8:11 - "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 14:26 - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..."*
- *Acts 2:4 - "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection

Devotional: Empowered by the Spirit for Life and Service

The resurrection power that raised Tabitha and Jesus is the work of the Holy Spirit. This same Spirit dwells in believers today, empowering and renewing our mortal bodies and spirits.

Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit unlocks confidence to live boldly and courageously. The Spirit guides, teaches, and equips us for compassionate service just as was evident in the early church community.

Pray to be filled afresh with the Spirit's power. Recognize that you carry within you the same life-giving Spirit that conquered death and continues to work miracles in the world.



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you experience the Holy Spirit's power in your daily life?

2. In what ways can the Spirit equip you to serve others as Tabitha did?

3. What areas of your life need fresh empowerment from the Holy Spirit?



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe moments when you have sensed the Holy Spirit working in you.

2. Write a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and empower you today.

3. List gifts or fruits of the Spirit you want to develop further.



Day 6: 🕊️ The Role of the Holy Spirit in Resurrection

Prayer for Today

Spirit of God, fill me anew with Your power and presence. Guide my heart and hands to serve with boldness and love. Teach me to walk in Your truth and reflect Christ's compassion in all I do. Let Your life-giving power revive my spirit daily. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🕊️ 🔥 🙏





Day 7: Living Tabitha's Legacy Daily



Your Verse

Hebrews 13:16 - "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*
- *Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."*



Day 7: 🌞 Living Tabitha's Legacy Daily

Devotional: Embracing a Lifestyle of Loving Service

Tabitha's story is a timeless reminder to live a life marked by good deeds and love. As you conclude this study, consider how you can carry forward her legacy daily through intentional acts of kindness, generosity, and faithfulness.

Every opportunity to serve is a chance to shine God's light. Whether large or small, your deeds matter deeply and glorify God when done in love.

Embrace this calling and renew your commitment to being a living example of Christ's compassion in today's world. Your legacy, like Tabitha's, can inspire and uplift generations.



Reflect and Apply

1. How will you practically apply Tabitha's example in your daily life?

2. What challenges might you face in living out such generosity and kindness?

3. Who around you could benefit from your compassionate action today?



Journaling Prompts

1. Create a personal mission statement inspired by Tabitha's life.

2. List specific plans for showing kindness this week.

3. Reflect on how service glorifies God in your experience.



Day 7: 🌅 Living Tabitha's Legacy Daily

Prayer for Today

Lord, help me to live a life like Tabitha's—marked by love and good deeds. Empower me to shine Your light in every interaction and to serve without hesitation. May my life be a blessing to others and glorify Your name. Give me strength and joy in every opportunity to do good. *Thank You for calling me to this wonderful purpose. Amen.* 🌅 ❤️ 🙏





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