



## Small Group Discussion Guide

January 29, 2017

### Sermon Title:

"Share Jesus . . . in Service"

**Sermon Text:** Acts 9:36-43

**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 13:15-16

**Leader:** *Please allow a moment for introductions/visiting, and then have someone offer a brief prayer for God to meet with your group.*

**Getting Started:** What act of service you offered for someone else brought you the most joy or moved you the most? Why?

### Discussion:

1. Is there a difference between the good works and humanitarian efforts offered by civic organizations or groups and those offered through the church? How are our acts of service **identified with Christ** (v 36 – "a disciple")? Read James 1:27. What does this verse have to say about Christian service and identity?
2. What symbolizes grace for you? The pastor said Christian service should be **offered with grace** (v 36 – "Dorcas" means gazelle, the gazelle was a symbol of grace). How does our service symbolize God's grace? How can we add more grace to the acts we offer to others? (See also, Acts 4:33-34a)
3. Scripture says Dorcas was "always doing good and helping" (v 36). Read Hebrews 10:24. How can we develop a similar reputation of service that is **practiced regularly**? (See also, Galatians 5:13)
4. Service may be **varied in form**. Dorcas used a needle (v 39). Some washed her body (v 37). Two men went to get Peter (v 38). Peter prayed and exercised a miracle of faith (v 40). The widows also offered themselves (v 39). Read Exodus 4:2. God used Moses' staff; he used Dorcas' needle; what do you have in your hand? (See also, Ephesians 4:11-12 – What role/purpose are church leaders to fulfill?)
5. The desired outcome of our service is **restored lives**. Dorcas' service had offered provision and encouragement (quality of life) to the widows (v 39). Peter's service resurrected (physical life) Dorcas (v 40). The sharing of this story caused many people to believe (spiritual life) (v 42). Take an inventory, how and where are you serving in the church? Beyond the church? How many of those means of service are focused on restoring life?

**Closing:** *Close by praying for each other. Go **SHARE JESUS . . . in Service!***