

PREPARING AT HOME

May 6-12, 2019

Focus reading: Acts 9:36–43 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=421401849>)

Other lectionary readings: Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9–17, John 10:22–30

Theme: Identity of Resistance

In the very first sentence of this week's reading we are told that the woman at the center of the story straddles life in two very distinct cultures. We are told she even has two names, revealing her bicultural identity. Tabitha is her Aramaic name, connecting her to Abraham, Sarah, and Jesus. Dorcas is her Greek name, allowing her to navigate life in a territory controlled by the Roman empire, whose official language was Greek. Tabitha was a follower of Jesus, who was executed by the Roman empire. She believed in a God who confused peoples' speech when they built a tower and insisted on speaking one language. She believed she was made in the image of the God of reversals. She thrived as a tailor, demonstrating that she was also successful in the dominating culture. She resisted that culture, however, by empowering the very women who the dominating culture discarded. She made clothing for widows and gave herself to life-giving acts in the community. When she died, the women's hopes must have died with her. But Tabitha was a follower of Jesus, whose resurrection defied the power of empire. When Peter called upon the power of the empire-resisting resurrection, Tabitha became alive again. The resurrection continues to breathe hope into oppressed communities.

EASTER IS A SEASON

Remind your child that Easter is a season, not just one day. How is this story an Easter story?

SHARING WITH OTHERS

Tabitha made clothing for those in need. Do you have clothing that you do not wear often? Gather it together as a family and donate it where it can be put to better use.

PRAYING FOR TABITHA

Who are the "Tabitha's" in your congregation? Who cares for the needy through generous acts of charity? Pray for those persons and for the Deacons of the congregation in their ministry of caring.

PRAYER

God of resurrection,
You call each of us to "Get up"
that we might serve you and care for others in love.
May we give generously
and love completely.
May we be Easter people!
Amen.