



## Lesson 12—We Show Our Creator Love *When We Love Others*

**Acts 9:36–42**

**Memory Verse**

“Owe no one anything  
except to love one another,  
for he who loves another  
has fulfilled the law”  
(Romans 13:8)

**Teacher’s Objective**

At the end of the session, the  
students should be able to:

**Define** what the name  
*Dorcas* means

**Locate** Joppa and  
Lydda on a map

**Describe** how Dorcas  
showed love to the  
widows and orphans

**Express** in their own  
words how they will  
show love to others in the  
coming weeks and months

**Materials Needed**

See “Teaching Activities”  
for specific activities

### Teacher’s Bible Study

**M**any Old Testament scriptures emphasize a responsibility to the poor. Provision was made for them having to do with gleaning, leaving the corners unreaped and not returning to pick up the forgotten sheaf (Leviticus 19:9–10; Deuteronomy 24:19–21). If a poor man had given his coat as a pledge for a debt, he was to be allowed to have it during the night to keep himself warm (Deuteronomy 24:10–13); the poor hired hand was to be paid at the end of the day because he had no money.

Oppression of the poor was considered a proverbial sign of depravity and godlessness (Job 20:19; 31:19; Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 22:22; 28:3). It was the duty of any person of means to help the less fortunate. It was the duty of kings and rulers to give aid and protection to the widows, the orphans, and the helpless (Deuteronomy 10:18; 27:19; Isaiah 1:17). One’s responsibility in this regard was continuous. There was no reason to think that strict payment of the poor tithe or other legal demands removed any need for an ongoing active concern.

Whereas the Old Testament provides a definitive system of giving and financial responsibility toward one’s God and fellow man, the New Testament concentrates on the spirit and attitude behind giving. Christian giving is discussed a great deal in the New Testament. The proper, godly use of money is an important subject dealt with by Jesus Christ and the apostles. This use has two aspects: The first concerns the responsibility of a Christian to help the poor. Poverty was evidently a major problem in the early church, as it was in Palestine as a whole. Acts 4:32–37 describes a period after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit when the church continued together in Jerusalem living on voluntarily donated property, and funds. These donations were not compulsory, so when Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property they were not compelled to donate the funds. As a result, when they did, but only turned over part of the amount while claiming to be giving it all, they indicted themselves. Their lie for the sake of self-aggrandizement met with quick retribution (Acts 5:1–11).

The Christian today strives to be a “light” to the world by allowing his actions to speak for themselves. He knows that one who tries to love his neighbor as himself will win that neighbor’s love in return and may, according to God’s will, encourage that neighbor to follow Christ as he himself does.

A Christian has many positive qualities. The most basic of these qualities is living a life of giving as opposed to getting, of serving others instead of being served, of loving instead of selfishness, and of accomplishing and building instead of tearing down and destroying. It is the way spoken of by Christ in the beatitudes and in the Sermon on the Mount. It is the way naturally produced by the motivation of God’s Holy Spirit. It is the way Jesus lived and acted; and a Christian is one who follows Christ in this way.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### Acts 9:36-42

*Dorcas* means “gazelle” in Greek. *Tabitha* is the Aramaic name for Dorcas

Widows were the most needy in this society. It was considered a religious duty by Christians and Jews to care for them

Dorcas was a Christian woman (a disciple) who lived in Joppa. Joppa is on the Mediterranean coast. Her actions showed that she loved Jesus and what He taught because she made clothes for the needy.

When Dorcas became ill and died, they sent for Peter. Lydda and Joppa were only about twelve miles apart. The Christians that sent for Peter believed, or expected that God would use Peter to resurrect Dorcas.

This miracle, like others, led many to believe on the Lord.

A tanner was someone who handled dead animals. This job was usually done by the outcasts. They were considered to be unclean (Leviticus 11:40). Peter stayed with a tanner whose name was Simon.

## Teaching Activities

### Art and Activities

#### Activity Pages

Provide a copy of the Activity Page suitable for each of your students. Provide pencils and crayons.

#### Art Activity

Since Dorcas did sewing to help the needy, have your students do some sewing. You will find that even the boys will enjoy this. Provide pieces of fabric (muslin, plain cotton, etc.) cut to about 6 x 8. With a pencil have your students draw a design or a verse on their fabric (example: “Love One Another”). Have them draw a border. Use x’s as an imitation of the cross stitch. If you have never done a sampler such as this, go to your fabric store for assistance. You will need yarn, scissors, and needles. For children who are too young to work with yarn and needle, have them draw with colorful felt-tip markers on the fabric. Their cross-stitch sampler can be a gift to a friend or relative.

## Explore the Subject

Explore the following questions with your students:

1. Does the Bible say that Dorcas was rich, and therefore able to provide clothing? (No.)
2. Do you think Dorcas may have gone without to help those in need? (Yes.)
3. What are some words that describe Dorcas? (Loving, kind, generous, helpful.)

## Respond and Reinforce

Always close your class with prayer

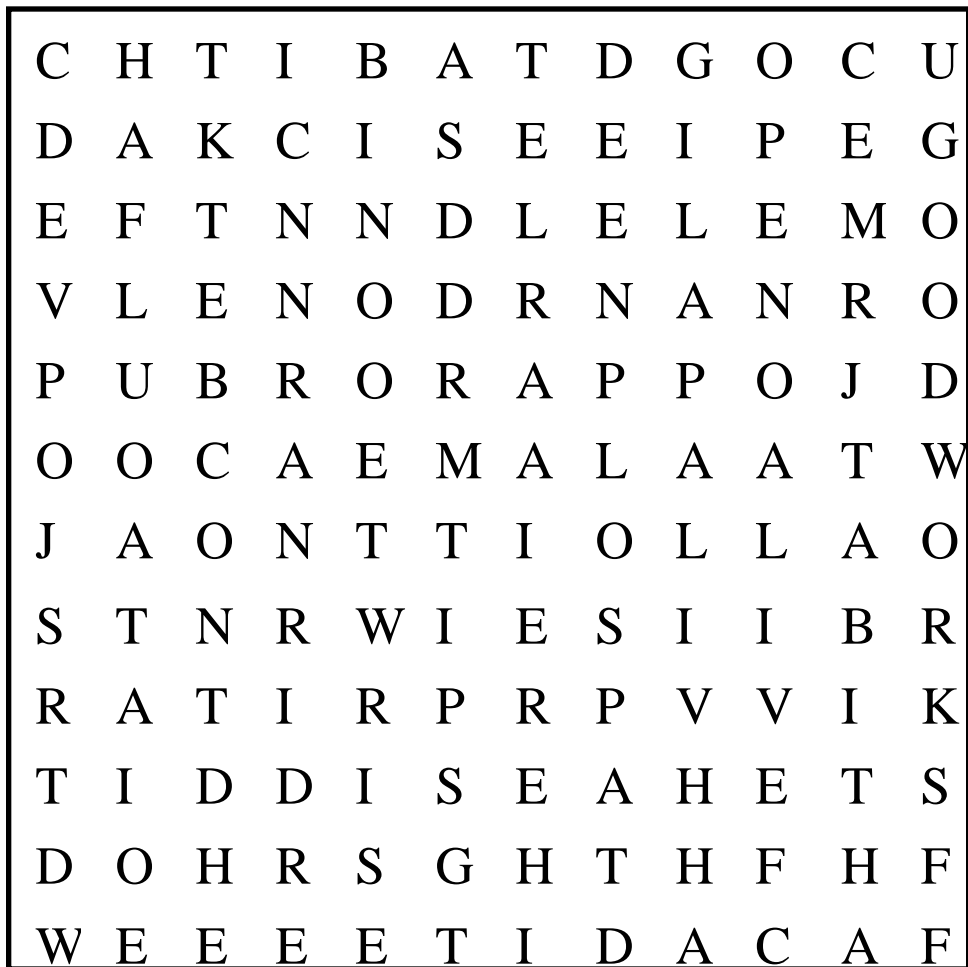
1. Finish the sentence, “I am going to stop thinking about myself all the time, and instead think about and help \_\_\_\_\_.”
2. Discuss the memory verse.

## Activity

### Love One Another

Acts 9:36–42

Read the Scriptures. Find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



TABITHA

PETER

POOR

DORCAS

RISE

GOOD WORKS

CHARITABLE

SIMON

SICK

NEED

TANNER

WIDOW

JOPPA

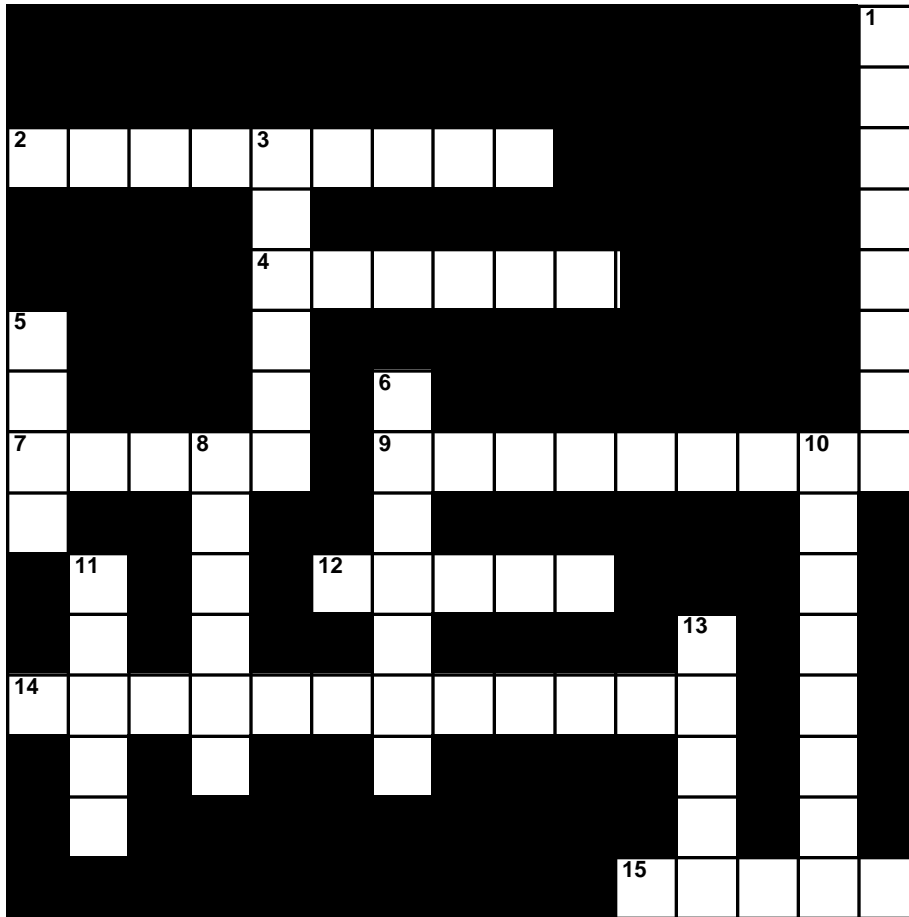
ALIVE

OPEN

## Art Activity

### Acts of Service Acts 9:36–42

Read the Scriptures and find the words the crossword puzzle below.



#### Across

2. Dorcas was full of \_\_\_\_\_ (see Acts 9:36; two words).
4. The woman who had died in Acts 9:36.
7. The outer garments that Dorcas had sewn for other people.
9. Acts done for the poor and the needy (see Acts 9:36).
12. Peter stayed in Joppa with a tanner named \_\_\_\_\_.
14. They had washed and laid Dorcas in an \_\_\_\_\_ after she died.
15. The apostle who said, “Tabitha, arise.”

#### Down

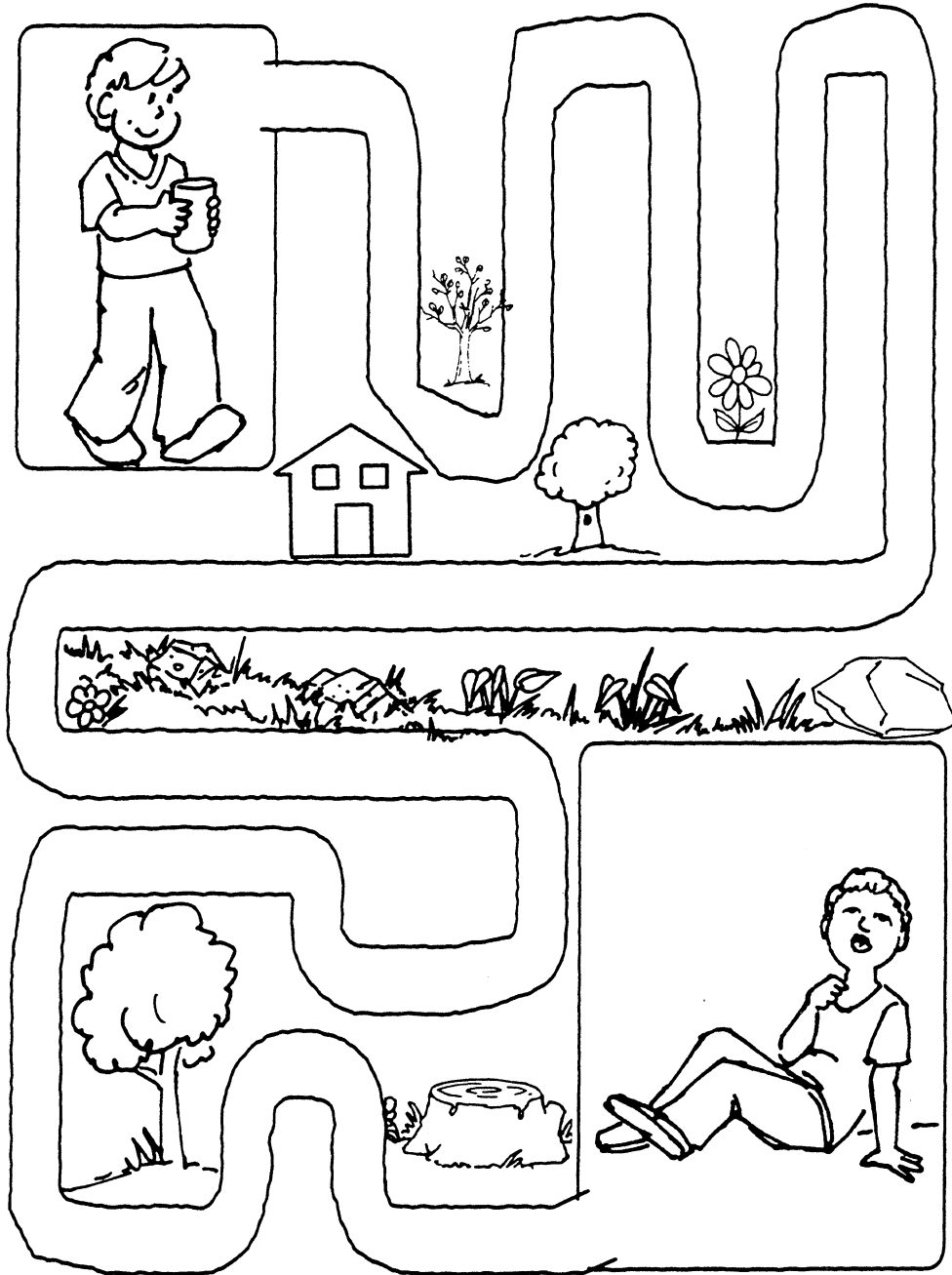
1. Articles of clothing (see Acts 9:39).
3. Women whose husbands have died.
5. Affected with ill health.
6. There was at Joppa a certain disciple named \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 9:36).
8. A person whose occupation is the tanning of hides.
10. A follower of Christ.
11. The city in which Tabitha [Dorcas] lived.
13. To get up from lying down, sitting, or kneeling.

Across: 2. Good works; 4. Dorcas; 7. Coats; 9. Almsdeeds; 12. Simon; 14. Upper chamber; 15. Peter. Down: 1. Garments; 3. Widows; 5. Sick; 6. Tabitha; 8. Tanner; 10. Disciple; 11. Joppa; 13. Arise.

# Art Activity

## Acts of Service Acts 9:36-42

Help the child take the water to the thirsty child. Color the picture.



## Art Activity

### We Show Our Creator Love When We Love Others

We learn not only how much God loves us, but how to love others through reading the Bible.



#### Fill in the blanks:

This is how we know what <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_ <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ or tongue but with <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, and how we set our hearts at rest in His presence whenever our hearts <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ us. For God is <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ than our hearts and He knows <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_—*I John 3:16–20, NIV*

Answers: 1. Love; 2. Brothers; 3. No; 4. Pity; 5. Words; 6. Action; 7. Truth; 8. Condemn; 9. Greater; 10. Everything

# Art Activity

## We Show Our Creator Love When We Love Others

Draw a line to match the things we can do to help others, and to share our blessings.

