

## WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

### DORCAS AND RHODA

**Pray** and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

**Read** the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

**Begin** to answer the questions using your own words.

*Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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#### LESSON 19

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Sapphira** was helpful to you?

#### SECTION I: Read Acts 9:36-42

2. a) Who was Dorcas, and what details do you learn about her from **V36**?

b) Look up "disciple" in the dictionary. What does it mean?

3. Who would you describe as "always doing good and helping the poor"? What impact for good (and for the Gospel) does this person have on you or on others?

4. a) What tragedy befell Dorcas, and what state was she in according to **V37**?

b) From **V38**, what was the disciples' message to Peter and why do you think they contacted him?

5. a) Who was surrounding Dorcas, and how were they affected by her death? (**V39**)

b) What was the tangible evidence of Dorcas' life of service?

6. What could others point to as tangible evidence of your life of service?

7. a) What do you find significant about Peter's actions and the events recorded in **V40-41**?

b) What seemingly impossible situation has you on your knees seeking His intervention?

8. What were the ramifications of this miracle at that time, according to **V42**?

9. How do you think Dorcas' life may have changed after the miracle?

10. In what area of your life do you desire to experience renewed passion through Jesus' resurrection power?

## **SECTION II: Read Acts 12:1-19**

11. a) What were the key events of **V1-4**?

b) In light of these events, what could have been the mood of the church?

12. a) In **V5**, the church was "earnestly praying" while Peter was in prison. How would you describe "earnest prayer?"

b) In what recent circumstance did you earnestly pray, and how did God answer your prayer?

13. Summarize Peter's experiences in **V6-10**.

14. What did Peter conclude in **V11**?

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15. From **V12**, where did he go, and what was going on at that location?

16. a) Who came to answer the door in **V13**, and what was her role?

b) What do you find endearing about Rhoda in **V14**?

17. a) What is humorous or ironic about the scene pictured in **V15-16**?

b) Do you identify more with Rhoda or with the others in your reactions to answered prayer? Explain.

18. What truth about the power of God is reflected in these verses?

19. How does the story end in **V17-19**?

20. a) As you consider the “good” stories of Dorcas and Rhoda amid some “bad and ugly” circumstances, which character trait of theirs do you desire to increase in your life?

b) Take this opportunity to get down on your knees before the Lord in earnest prayer about it.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. God has much to say about the rich and the poor. What insights do you find in the following verses:

**Psalm 35:10** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 9:6-9** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 9:10-13** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 6:7-8** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Timothy 6:18-19** \_\_\_\_\_

2. a) Search your heart. What is your view of the poor, and how is it reflected in your action or inaction?

b) What opportunities are there for you to care for the poor and needy in the course of your daily life?

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Ephesians 6:7**

