1. The early Christian church—a new kind of community
   a) Acts 2:42–47
   b) Acts 4:32–37
   c) What evidence do you see in the Book of Acts indicating the early Christian church was far from perfect? (Acts 5:1–11, Acts 6:1, etc.)
   d) What aspects of the early Christian church are similar to the Christian church today?
   e) Where have you seen a Christian church today that resembles the generous and caring Christian community described in Acts 4?

2. The ministry and witness of Tabitha, called Dorcas
   a) Acts 9:36–42
   b) What teaching of Jesus did Dorcas take very seriously? (Matthew 25:38)
   c) What evidence do you find in this narrative that shows the broad impact of her caring ministry?
   d) Share the story of a modern-day Dorcas.
   e) Dorcas used her unique skills to help those in need. What unique skills could you use to serve others?

3. Giving as a way of caring for those in need
   a) Acts 20:25—a comment from Jesus about giving
   b) Galatians 2:10 Why did early Christian church leaders admonish Paul and Barnabas to remember the poor?
   c) What important principle is Paul reinforcing to the Corinthian Christians when he quotes from Exodus 16:18? 2 Corinthians 8:15, 9:6-7
   d) Share an experience where someone cared for you in a time of need
   e) How have you experienced joy as you cared for the needs of others? How have blessings come back to you?

4. Showing love as a way of caring for those in need
   a) John 13:34–35
   b) Romans 12:10
   c) Matthew 5:43–48
   d) What is easier—to offer financial assistance to those in need or to love them?
   e) How can we overcome our biases and love without qualifications or limits?

5. Religion, pure and undefiled
   a) How does James describe religion that is pure and undefiled? James 1:27
   b) Why does James emphasize the need to care for orphans and widows?
   c) What is the connection between caring for the needy and keeping yourself unspotted from the world?