

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?

