



THE POWER AND THE WISDOM OF GOD
UNIT 32 • SESSION 1

CHANGED BY **THE GOSPEL**

MAIN POINT

**Peter preached the gospel so others might
come to know Jesus.**

ACTS 9:31 • THE LORD PROVIDES PEACE TO HIS CHURCH

31 So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

ACTS 9:32-35 • THE LORD BRINGS HEALING THROUGH HIS CHURCH

32 As Peter was traveling from place to place, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. **33** There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. **34** Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed,” and immediately he got up. **35** So all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

ACTS 9:36-43 • THE LORD RESTORES LIFE WITHIN HIS CHURCH

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated Dorcas). She was always doing good works and acts of charity. **37** About that time she became sick and died. After washing her, they placed her in a room upstairs. **38** Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him who urged him, “Don’t delay in coming with us.” **39** Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. And all the widows approached him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was with them. **40** Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down, prayed, and turning toward the body said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. He called the saints and widows and presented her alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. **43** Peter stayed for some time in Joppa with Simon, a leather tanner.

1. THE LORD PROVIDES PEACE TO HIS CHURCH

READ ACTS 9:31

WHEN HAS GOD GIVEN YOU A PERIOD OF PEACE AFTER A REALLY DIFFICULT SEASON?

HOW DO THESE TIMES OF PEACE HELP US ENDURE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES?

2. THE LORD BRINGS HEALING THROUGH HIS CHURCH

READ ACTS 9:32-35

WHEN ARE YOU TEMPTED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THE GOOD WORKS YOU DO?

WHO RECEIVED THE CREDIT FOR HEALING AENEAS? WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



BIG QUESTION

HOW CAN I CONTINUE TO GROW EVEN WHEN LIFE IS GOOD OR EASY?

When we go through difficult seasons, we are sometimes more aware of how much we need the Lord. But the truth is that we need Him just as much when life is good. We need Him for every breath we take. When we struggle, we usually pray more. We get into the Word more to search for guidance and truth. We seek godly community to help encourage us. But these are all disciplines we must continue doing in every season. We can continue to grow in times of peace just as much as in times of struggle. In fact, what we invest in during these seasons will help us endure times of difficulty. If we invest in God's Word and in knowing Him during easier times, then we will have a strong relationship with Christ to sustain us during times of pain.

3. THE LORD RESTORES LIFE WITHIN HIS CHURCH

READ **ACTS 9:36-43**

WHAT EFFECT DID DORCAS'S RESTORATION HAVE ON THE COMMUNITY?

HOW HAS JESUS RESTORED YOU? IS IT HAVING AN IMPACT ON OTHERS? EXPLAIN.



ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE

DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, possessing the fullness of deity like the Father and Son. His deity can be seen in the fact that He is eternal (Heb. 9:14), omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-8), the Creator and Giver of life (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30; John 3:5-7), and directly identified with the Triune God (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

HEAD



**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND
GOD IS THE POWER BEHIND ANY
HEALING OR RESTORATION?**

HEART

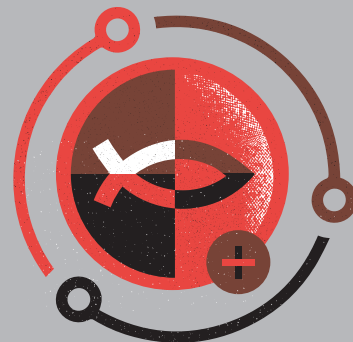


**WHEN HAVE YOU STRUGGLED TO
BELIEVE GOD CAN RESTORE YOU?**

HANDS



**WHAT WOULD IT REALLY LOOK LIKE
FOR YOU TO LIVE LIKE YOU'VE BEEN
SPIRITUALLY RESTORED AND HEALED
THROUGH CHRIST?**



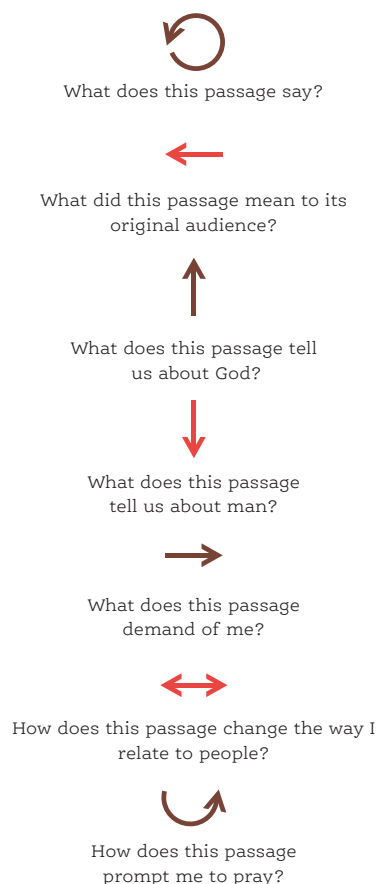
CHRIST CONNECTION

The miracles Peter performed were done by the power of the Holy Spirit and resulted in people turning to the Lord for salvation, echoing Jesus's earthly ministry. During His time on earth, Jesus performed many miracles to reveal that He is the Son of God, culminating in the miracle of the resurrection, which confirmed that salvation had come.



DAILY DEVOTIONS

THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



DAY 01

JOHN 14:25-27

Think about where you feel peace. Maybe it's when you're in nature or when you're with loved ones. This peace is temporary, though, because our circumstances change. We encounter stress and struggles, which test our trust in the Lord. But Jesus promised a peace that would never leave—a peace that doesn't depend on our circumstances. This peace comes directly from the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. It's a gift meant to help carry us through difficulties and persecution. The peace that comes from Jesus assures us whatever pain we encounter here is temporary. It's a reminder that we have a Counselor, the Holy Spirit, who walks with us.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE PEACE?

WHAT OTHER WAYS DO YOU SEEK PEACE INSTEAD OF FINDING IT IN CHRIST?

Pray: Thank the Lord for offering you a peace that doesn't depend on your circumstances. Ask Him to help you feel peace even during difficult situations.

DAY 02

PSALM 115:1-3

HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN OTHERS
PRAISE YOU FOR GOOD THINGS
YOU DO?

ASSESS YOUR MOTIVES: DO YOU
GIVE GOD GLORY FOR GOOD
WORKS, OR DO YOU SEEK PRAISE
FOR YOURSELF?

We all do good works at times. Maybe you mowed someone's yard for free. Or maybe you invited someone to church and that person came to know Christ. But sometimes we become prideful in our good works. We begin to take credit for the outcome; we welcome praise from others. But here's something we must remember: Anything good we do is because of God's presence leading us to do so. All goodness comes from Him, and all glory belongs to Him. It can be tempting to do good things to receive praise from others, but God is the only One who is worthy of praise. He deserves all the credit for the good things we do.

Pray: Confess the times you've done good works to receive praise. Give God glory for the good things you've done, and thank Him for working in you.

DAY 03

JAMES 1:16-17

Think about something you're good at, like sports, art, or music. Or maybe you're great at making others feel comfortable and included. Did you know God gives every believer a spiritual gift? This means He gives us something to help grow the kingdom of God. For example, maybe you're really good at encouraging others, or maybe you're great at speaking or teaching. God uses our talents and the things we're good at to reach others with the gospel! But these gifts come from Him, not from us.

WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS OR TALENTS?

HOW CAN YOU BEGIN TO USE YOUR
GIFTS AND TALENTS FOR GOD?

Pray: Thank God for using you in His kingdom. Ask Him to make you more aware of your gifts and how they can be used for His glory.

DAY 04

MATTHEW 21:18-22

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU
DESPERATELY LONG FOR GOD TO DO
IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM ASKING GOD
FOR THESE THINGS?

Some of Jesus's statements are shocking. For example, in this passage, Jesus said our faith can move mountains into the sea. He told the disciples that if they believed, they would receive what they asked for in prayer. It's important to understand the context of His words. He wasn't implying we can ask for wealth or worldly power and expect to receive it. Instead, when we ask for the things that line up with God's will and His heart, then we can expect Him to answer. Jesus is calling us to greater faith—to greater belief in His authority. God can do the impossible, and He is welcoming us to ask for anything in Jesus's name.

Pray: Ask God to increase your faith. Present your requests to Him.

DAY 05

1 PETER 5:10

It's amazing to see an old car or a home completely restored. It goes from appearing destroyed or useless to looking brand new. Doesn't the Lord do this with us? Most—if not all—of us go through spiritual highs and lows. In some seasons we struggle to feel God near to us. We may struggle to get into the Word or to pray. Often, these seasons coincide with difficult circumstances. God restores us completely when we come to Him for salvation, but He daily restores us too. He continually makes us new, and He restores us when we're weary.

WHAT IS MAKING YOU WEARY
RIGHT NOW?

WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE IN
NEED OF GOD'S RESTORING POWER?

Pray: Ask God to restore you—to make you new and refreshed. Thank the Lord for continuing to change you as you follow Him.