**IT’S TIME TO GET UP**

**Acts 9:32-43**

**THE BIG IDEA: In a world where everyone needs Jesus, Christians have access to God through prayer and should be active in ministering the love of Jesus to others.**

**EVERY PERSON ON EARTH HAS A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ PROBLEM THAT ONLY JESUS CAN HEAL**

* *“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 9:32-35)
* **Jesus has power over all sickness, both physical and spiritual.**
* *“Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.”* (Matthew 4:23)
* **More important than physical healing on this side of eternity is spiritual healing that comes only through Jesus Christ.**

**EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER IN USE TO THE LORD THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS**

* *“In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which is translated Dorcas). She was always doing good works and acts of charity.”* (Acts 9:36)
* *“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.”* (Acts 9:39)
* **Your gifting and abilities may not look like other peoples’ giftings and abilities, but what God has shaped and equipped you for is equally important and needed.**
* Jesus - *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:35)
* **Every follower of Jesus can serve others in a way that shows the love of Christ working in and through us.**

**EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS ACCESS TO OUR ALL POWERFUL GOD THROUGH \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“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.”* (Acts 9:40-43)
* **Jesus has power over death and the grave!**
* Jesus - *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”* (John 11:25-26)
* **God in His sovereignty responds to the prayers of His people according to His divine purposes.**
* *“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.”* (1 John 5:14-15)
* **When we pray to the Lord we are exercising faith that our prayers matter, and that the Lord is able to do what we ask, regardless of *how* He responds.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is the most thoughtful thing someone has ever done for you?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 9:32-43 teach us about God?
* What was the purpose of the miraculous healings in Acts 9?
* What impact did Tabitha (Dorcas) have on people in Joppa?
* Why was it important for Luke to mention that Peter stayed with Simon, a leather tanner?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* What can we learn about overcoming sin from the paralyzed man’s story? (This is not to say he was paralyzed due to sin).
* In what ways are you serving others? What other ways can you?
* How healthy would you say your prayer life is at this time? How can we help each other in strengthening our prayer life?
* What is something you can take from this message and apply immediately?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?