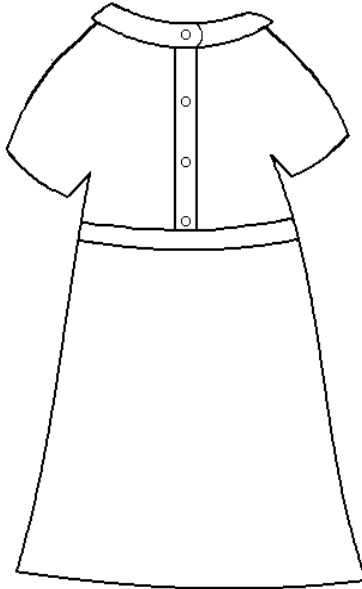


Draw a dress for the children to copy. Let them show the picture to the adults during worship time and explain that it illustrates what Dorcas gave to people who needed help.



Ask the children: In what other ways can we serve the needy? Let children and adults cite examples.

Poem. Let four children each recite a verse from Proverbs 11:16, 24, 25 & 28.

Memorize Matthew 25:40

Let the older children write poems, songs or dramas about serving the poor.

Prayer. “Lord, help us to care for orphans, widows and all people who are in need. Help us to love them like you love them. Show us how to serve them like Dorcas did.”

Good Dorcas Died and Was Restored to Life

Choose any of these children's learning activities.

Prayer: “Dear Lord, help the children to show their love for needy people in practical ways.

Activity: If convenient, let the children colour this picture of giving food to a hungry person.



Let an older child or a teacher read or tell by memory the story of Dorcas in **Acts 9:32-42**. It shows how the first Christians cared for the poor.

After relating the story, ask these **questions**. [*Answers appear after each question.*]

- What kind of person was Dorcas? [*See verse 36*]
- What did the believers do when she died? [*See verse 38*]
- Who was in the room crying? [*See verse 39*]
- How did poor people feel about Dorcas? [*See verse 39*]
- What did Peter ask the people to do, before he raised Dorcas from death? [*See verse 40*]
- What was the result of this miracle? [*See verse 42*]

Practice doing a **role play** about serving the needy.

- Let the children act out how they will show love for needy people in practical ways.
- Name some children to play these **roles** (You do not have to do all the parts):
 1. **Hungry Widow.**
 2. **Lonely Orphan.**
 3. **Sad Prisoner.**
 4. **Tired Travellers.**
 5. **Sick Neighbour.**
 6. **Lost Child** who cannot find the way home.
 7. **Believers** who meet these needy people.
- Have each needy person tell the believers what their trouble is. Then let the children say what they will do when they really meet such people.
- If the children cannot think of good examples, then suggest things like these:
 1. Give the widow food.
 2. Find a home for the orphan.
 3. Visit and cheer up the prisoner.
 4. Provide a place to sleep for the traveller.
 5. Pray for the sick and give them care.
 6. Take the lost child home.

Dramatize parts of the story of Dorcas, from Acts 9:32-42.

Arrange with the leader of the main congregational worship to have the children present this drama.

- If time is limited, then skip the less important parts of the story.
- If there are not enough children, then ask adults to help.
- Practice until everyone knows what to do and say.

- Let the actors say the words and do the actions of persons in the Bible, when the narrator comes to that part of the story.
- Let the older children help prepare the younger ones.
- Let **older children** or adults play the parts of **Peter**, **Narrator** and **Dorcas** who pretends to have a needle, thread, and cloth.
- Let **younger children** play the parts of **Disciples** in Joppa and **Widows**.

Narrator: Read or tell by memory Dorcas' story from Acts 9:32-42. Then say, "Hear what Dorcas says to some widows."

Dorcas: says, "Look, friends, I sewed these clothes for you. I knew you needed them."

Widows: "Oh, thank you, Dorcas." "You are always so kind with those in need."

Dorcas: Hold your head and say, "I feel sick now. I must lie down." Lie down.

Disciples: Go to Peter. Say, "Peter, please come! Dorcas died!"

Peter: Hurry to where the widows are crying around Dorcas. Ask the widows to leave the room. Pray for God to restore her. Then say, "Dorcas, get up."

Dorcas: Sit up and look around.

Widows and disciples: Praise God together.

Narrator or older child: Thank all who helped.

If the children dramatize this story for the adults, let **the children ask the** adults the questions that are listed above.