

Look Book Took
Year C, Easter 4
Enchanted Lives

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Look: Have you seen a miracle in your life? Do you think miracles are real?

Book:

Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

1. Who might you compare Tabitha to in modern times? Is there a person in the larger world church or even at St. David's, that you think is like Tabitha?
2. What evidence does the passage have to show how much Tabitha was adored and needed in her community?

3. What did Peter do before he spoke to Tabitha?
4. The same words in the original language "get up" recall the exact verb used to describe Jesus' rising from the grave. How might you relate this "getting up" to Jesus' "getting up?"
5. If you were sent to find Peter, do you think he would actually be able to raise her from the dead?
6. How do you think the widows and members of the community felt when they saw Tabitha alive?
7. The passage feels like it ends suddenly, but it is important. A tanner would have been unclean in Jewish purity law because s/he works with unclean animals and blood. How does Peter staying with an "unclean" person reflect Jesus' ministry?
8. Would you blame people for not believing after seeing Tabitha alive? "Many" does not mean "all."

Took:

The Holy Spirit, the power in Jesus Christ, worked through Peter. Is that Holy Spirit in people today? Do you think it is in the room in which you are currently studying, praying, and engaging in fellowship?

Can you explain this miracle scientifically?

How would you tell someone who does not believe in miracles, but does believe in the scientific method, that you believe this really happened?

If you have seen a miracle in your life, do you tell other people that you witnessed a miracle?

Leading up to Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church (Church's birthday), how do you describe the Holy Spirit to someone who asks what it is?

Do you think the Holy Spirit is at St. David's? Is the Holy Spirit in you?

Do you see signs of God's work in your
"regular" life?

Tabitha was a servant of good works and charity
and Peter and God raised her back up. Do you
think we are asked to be servants like Tabitha?
How do you envision yourself as the "perfect"
Christian, follower of Jesus?