

17 April 2016

JUNIORS: JOSEPH SERVES GOD IN PRISON (Genesis 40)

Tell your Mum and Dad what happened to Joseph in prison and then colour in this picture:



SENIORS: “Get up!” (Acts 9:36-43)

Have you ever watched a fire burning on a mountain or in the veld? Starting from a small spark, the fire spreads quickly as it jumps from bush to bush and from tree to tree.

Jesus’ good news about God’s love was like a spark for it set people aflame with joy. The Jewish leaders must have felt so useless. They just couldn’t put out this Jesus-fire, no matter what they tried.

When they put Jesus to death, they thought they would have peace at last. But then, of course, his body disappeared from the tomb and rumours began to circulate that Jesus had done the impossible and come back to life! Many of Jesus’ followers actually saw him. They told their friends, and their friends told their friends and soon there were many people who believed that Jesus was indeed the Son of God – even though they hadn’t actually seen Jesus themselves. Instead of putting out the Jesus-fire, the authorities had helped it to spread!

The joyful news spread to the town of Joppa where a lady called Tabitha lived. Tabitha (or Dorcas as some people called her) had probably never met Jesus, but she heard about him and believed that he was the Son of God. She began to live as God wanted her to do.

It seems that she was good at sewing and that God encouraged her to use her talents to help the poor. And that is what she began to do: she made clothes for the orphans and widows especially. Mothers didn't work in those days and so, if a father died, the families often became very poor. And Tabitha's sewing made a huge difference to them. Tabitha probably also spent quite a lot of time with each family and she became their friend, able to comfort them and listen to them.

Then one day Tabitha took ill. No doctor could help her and it wasn't long before she died. The poor people were so upset. They just didn't know how they were going to manage without her.

Someone remembered that Simon Peter was in a nearby town, and two men were sent off to ask him to come as quickly as he could. They thought he would know what to do. When he heard their news, Peter came back to Joppa with them

When he got to Tabitha's house, he saw that it was full of sad people who wanted to show him the clothes Tabitha had made for them.

But God told Peter what he must do. Peter asked everyone to leave Tabitha's room and then he began to pray. After a while, he turned to the dead woman and told her to get up. And she did! She sat up immediately. and Peter was able to show the people that she was alive and well. God had used Peter to raise Tabitha from the dead.

Tabitha was once again able to do her special service for God. I am sure there were lots of people who came to visit her, just to hear her story, so she was probably able to tell other people about God. The flame of the good news continued to spread!

Now, you and I may not be given the gift of healing, and lots of us can't sew. But we are each special and God plans to use our specialness to spread the good news even further. Won't you ask him what you can do to show your love for Him?

PUZZLE

This story reminds us of a miracle that Jesus did? Read about it in Luke 8:40-42, 49-56.

Write down three things which you think are the same in each story.

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3.

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