



# Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

## Wednesday Prayer – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Together, With God

***In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha. She was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. But the believers heard that Peter was nearby and sent two men to beg him, “Please come as soon as possible!”***

***<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Acts 9:36-38, 40, 42***

“Tabitha, get up.” Tabitha was a young woman known for her good works. Her death must have been a terrible blow to her family and friends, and to the community of believers who call for Peter in hopes of a miracle. Peter prays to God and her life is restored. Peter knows this is not his work, but through his prayer, God is working through him. This incredible act is told throughout the community and many people believed in God as a result.

How often have we been called to get up, to wake up, to act? For many of us the ability or desire to act seems just as difficult as if we had been called from the dead. Our ears and eyes are closed. Our daily burdens seem too great. The action seems too monumental for one or two people. But Peter prays to God. He doesn't rely on his own knowledge or abilities. Maybe he doesn't even have any special skills. He prays to God, and as a result, word of God's power is spread throughout Joppa.

When we are called to wake up, we are responding to God's call to help others and to have faith that he will give us the ability to share his love in a meaningful way. The barriers that sometimes hold us back in the movement to end exploitation have been lifted by our conviction that together we make a difference. Together we can protect children; we can raise them to seek healthy relationships; we can restore trust. Together.

**Good and gracious God, Open our eyes to the power of your love for us and for the whole world. Join our hearts together to act on behalf of children, and let that action bear witness to your amazing grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

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Written by Ginny Rudloff, retired Cherish All Children Prevention Coordinator and member of Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, where she engages her faith community in prevention efforts.