



# MISSIONAL VALUES—6

GOD'S MISSION IS WIDER THAN EVANGELISM. ONE SIMPLE WAY OF DESCRIBING IT IS RESTORATION. ACTS 3:21.

## 6. EXPLOIT THE ORDINARY. BUT BE READY FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY

'Jesus **did** walk on water. But most of the time he went by boat'.

### Note

### Reflect

Invite people to speak out Ps 119:18. "Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law".

1. Ask one person to read twice through Ac 9:36-38. Keep silence for two minutes while people consider what has struck them. Share the words with the whole group without comment.
2. Repeat the process with a different reader. Consider, "What if anything, is God saying to me from this passage?" After two minutes, people may share if they wish.
3. Repeat once more. Consider, "What response does God require from me to this passage?"

### Explore

Read the preceding paragraph, Ac 9:32-35. Peter had already been involved in some remarkable healings (See Ac 3:1-10 and 5:12-16). While he also had two executions to his credit, there is no other record of Peter raising somebody from death. By any standard, this was an extraordinary miracle, even though Jesus had included raising the dead in his commission to the twelve in Mt 10:8.

1. What was the experience of the disciples in Joppa of the ordinary and the extraordinary. How would their experience of seeing Tabitha/Dorcas raised from death affected their valuing of her serving ministry? How would you have advised the church, in the light of the fact that in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century experiences of God's power sometimes led the churches to neglect less dramatic ministries.
2. The journey from Lydda to Joppa would have taken around three hours. What issues might Peter have considered in the light of his time with Jesus and his previous experience.
3. When Peter arrived he followed a procedure similar to that of Jesus in Lk 8:51-56. What were the differences in the situation and Peter's actions.
4. Peter said to Tabitha, "Get up!" Given that the instruction in Mt 10:8 was to *heal* sick people and *raise* the dead, rather than pray for them, why did Peter pray before raising her from the dead. In twos and threes try to reconstruct Peter's prayer, taking into account Peter's experience and context. If that seems too much try writing the prayer you would pray if you found yourself in that situation. Read out the prayers.

## Act

1. What is the ordinary and extraordinary in your situation? Where should you be prepared for the extraordinary to happen?
2. Taking the prayers written earlier, adjust them for your situation and imagine needing to use them. Consider titling your prayer: IN CASE OF EXTRAORDINARY POSSIBILITY, USE THIS PRAYER. Keep your prayer where it can be referred to when the opportunity presents itself.