

*There is a very short story in the Bible about a person named Dorcas. The Bible only tells us a small part of the story. It says she was a very kind woman who helped many people. So I read what it said about Dorcas in the Bible, and then made the rest of the story up myself.*

*Why not read about Dorcas in your Bible? You might want to make up your own story about her.*

## Dorcas and Anna Help Each Other

*Acts 9:36-42*

"Here," said Dorcas. "Put this on. It will keep you warm at night."

"Oh, thank you," said Anna. "Thank you very much."

Anna was eight years old. She was all by herself. She had no mother and father and no place to live. She had to sleep outside on the street at night.

Dorcas smiled at Anna. "Here's something to eat. You look hungry."

Anna began to eat right away. She was very hungry. Anna hadn't eaten for three whole days. She was also very lonely and afraid.

After Anna had some food, she felt a little better. Dorcas sat down beside her. "Do you have a place to live? Is there anyone to take care of you?"

Anna shook her head.

"Well then," said Dorcas. "Would it be all right if I found you a place to live?"

"Yes, please," said Anna in a tiny voice.

"Would you come and stay with me until we can find you a



home?" Dorcas asked. Anna nodded.

Dorcas took Anna's hand as they walked. It seemed a long way.

Dorcas began to walk more slowly. She wasn't feeling very well. "No matter," said Dorcas to herself. "I'll be fine soon. I've got to find Anna a place to live."

Dorcas could hardly walk by the time she and Anna got to the house. "Anna," said Dorcas, "would you mind if I just lie down for a while. I'm very tired. All I need is a little rest and then I'll be fine."

But Dorcas wasn't fine. She lay down and closed her eyes. She was very, very still. Anna looked closely. She couldn't see Dorcas breathing. Anna was very worried about her new friend.

Anna ran to the door. She saw one of the neighbors outside. "Please," she said. "Please come quickly. Something is wrong."

"Oh, no," said the neighbor when she came inside. "Dorcas is dead!" The neighbor began to cry very loudly.

Soon many other friends heard the crying and came to look. "What will we do?" they cried. "Dorcas was such a friend. Dorcas always showed us how to live in God's way. Look at the coat she made for me when I was cold."

"She was the only friend I had," thought Anna. "Oh God, please don't let her be dead."

Soon many people had come to see Dorcas. They remembered how often she had helped poor people. She had helped them with food and made clothes for them. Dorcas loved and helped anyone who needed her.

Someone had called Peter. "Look at Dorcas," they said to Peter. "We think she's dead."

"Please, would you all leave the room for a while," said Peter. "I'd like to be alone with Dorcas."

Everyone went into the next room. Anna too.

Peter prayed very quietly to God. Peter thanked God for Dorcas. "She showed so many people how to live in God's way," said Peter. "Dorcas helped so many people."

Then Peter looked at Dorcas and said. "We need you, Dorcas. Please get up."

Slowly, Dorcas opened her eyes. She looked at Peter. Peter took her by the hand and helped her out of bed. They walked into the next room where all the people were waiting.

"Look!" the neighbor shouted. "Dorcas is alive!"

"Oh, what's all the fuss," she said, pretending to be angry. "Go home, all of you. Come, Anna. We've got work to do."

When the people were gone, Dorcas looked at Anna. "Please come and sit with me for a little while, Anna. Hold my hand. I feel better. But I need someone to be gentle and kind to me right now. Would you do that Anna?"

Anna snuggled up to Dorcas and closed her eyes. Deep in her heart Anna said, "Thank you, God."

