

# GROUPS

sermon guide

## RIOTS & RIVALS - 08/03/2025 (John Clark)

### MAIN IDEA

#### ORDINARY

### TALK ABOUT IT

- If you could master one everyday, ordinary skill (like cooking, fixing things, organizing), what would it be and why?
- Who's the most "ordinary" person in your life who has made an extraordinary difference in your faith?
- Peter and Tabitha were ordinary followers of Jesus—how do we see the extraordinary power of God working through them?
- Think about Tabitha's life: she was a disciple known for "good works and acts of charity." How might her story challenge our definitions of impact or "greatness" in God's Kingdom?
- How might our obsession with celebrity (even in the church) hinder us from appreciating the value of ordinary faithfulness?
- In what ways can we celebrate ordinary obedience in a culture that rewards platform and visibility?
- Where in your life do you feel "too ordinary" to be used by God? How does this passage speak into that?
- Pastor Clark said, "A disciple has experienced new life in Jesus, has surrendered to Jesus, is being transformed by Jesus and is engaged in the mission of Jesus." Where are you on that journey right now?
- Which of those four aspects is God challenging you to grow in?
- If someone described your life like Tabitha's—with a single sentence—what would they say you're known for? What do you hope they would say?

### KEY SCRIPTURES

#### Acts 9:32-43

### NEXT STEPS

- **ECOUNTER:**
  - Join us at one of our Sunday services: 8:30am, 10am & 11:30am
    - *Spanish interpretation during our 10:00am service*
- **EXPERIENCE**
  - Find your community this summer through Gather Groups! Check out our new August offerings & sign-up on our website.
- **EXPAND**
  - River Baptisms - Sunday, August 17th at 5:00pm at Walla Walla Park.
    - If you are interested in getting baptized, sign up on our events section of the website.
  - Back to School Blessings - Help us support local students as they head back to school!
    - Collection dates: 8/3-8/17
    - Check our [Events Page](#) link for the list of needed school supplies.

### GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** How has my view of "ordinary" changed after seeing how God worked through people like Peter and Tabitha in Acts 9? What does this passage reveal about the kind of people God chooses to work through, and how does that shift how I see myself and others in the church?
- **Journal:** In what ways have I been waiting for something "big" or impressive to feel useful to God—rather than offering Him what's already in my hands? What would it look like for me to offer the ordinary parts of my life back to Him this week?
- **Application:** Who in my life right now could be encouraged or served through something simple—like a visit, a prayer, a note, or an act of kindness? What is one small step I can take this week to serve them—without needing recognition, just trusting that God can use it in an extraordinary way?