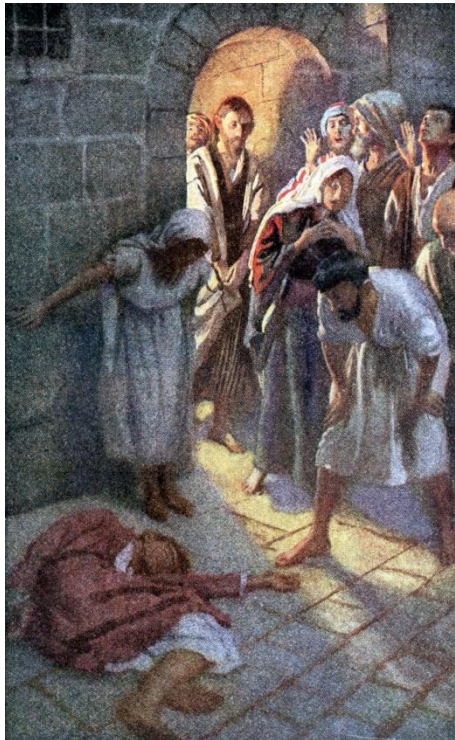


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 1



FELLOWSHIP AT TROAS

Scripture Text: Acts 20:1-12

We have been studying the Book of Acts, keeping in mind in every lesson **Acts 1:8**. We are handling the Word of God—precious, true, living, and powerful. It is God's tool for accomplishing His work in and through us. But the results are in our hands if we are to make these lessons effective.

The Book of Acts is a picture of the history of the early church. First, the Holy Spirit came upon the church; then the greatest Power there is began to work in them in miracles, in healings, in lives on fire for God. These were some of the greatest lives the world has ever seen or known. It did not end with the Book of Acts but went on and on and still is going on today. Do not be left out. The promise is to you and to all.

After three years of successful labors in Ephesus, Paul was looking to other fields. He would revisit Macedonia, Achaia, and Jerusalem, then go to Rome (**Acts 19:21**), the capital of the empire. While he was planning, the uproar over idols in Ephesus hastened his departure (**Acts Chapter 19**).

MEMORY VERSE: *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

—*Acts 1:8*

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Acts 2:37-47** Spiritual and physical bread to eat.

Tue.—**Matthew 14:14-21** Miracle bread broken.

Wed.—**Luke 24:13-35** Spiritual bread broken.

Thu.—**Psalms 104:14-23** The fruitfulness of the earth.

Fri.—**Matthew 26:17-30** Jesus' body represented as bread.

Devotional Reading: **John 6:32-51** Jesus is the living bread.

Paul Had Deep Love

Acts 20:1-5 Paul's leaving of the Ephesian disciples was with great emotion. He **embraced**—put his arms around—**them**. There was deep love between them, not mere human love but the deep love of God. It was this divine love that led Paul to visit the churches and give them **much exhortation**. He traveled over Macedonia and Greece. When he with friends was about to sail from Greece to Syria, the Jews laid wait for him. Some of his friends went directly to Troas, but Paul slipped away and went by way of Philippi in Macedonia.

Worship at Troas

Acts 20:6-7 Joining the others, Paul stayed seven days at Troas. **And upon the first day of the week**—Sunday—the disciples gathered **to break bread**—to eat together and enjoy the Christian fellowship with the saints. (**Matthew 4:4; John 6:35**.) Paul preached. He was leaving the next day. There was so much to say that he **continued his speech until midnight**. The saints listened with great interest. They desired to hear every

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word that Paul had to say. This kind of a true desire to hear the message from God will give us a greater desire to gather together.

This is a day of much impatience with long sermons. True, one went to sleep while Paul preached, but most listened. They recognized their rare privilege of hearing this soldier of Christ. They were hungry enough to continue to listen to Paul talk until daybreak. An empty sermon is too long at five minutes. One filled with the living Word of God is welcome to hearts that are hungry for that Word. To such hearts, worldly interests offer no competition to such preaching. These saints were enough interested in things of God to spend all night listening and talking of them. When we are united in Christ, we can have deep fellowship together.

Eutychus Raised to Life

Acts 20:8-10 The meeting was held on the upper floor. A young man, Eutychus, sat in a window. As the hour grew late he fell asleep. Sinking lower and lower, he fell from the window to the ground below. Rushing down, his friends picked him up—dead. **Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him**—putting his arms around him, much concerned—said, **his life is in him**. God had healed Eutychus. God through faith had returned life to his body. Only Christ, by the power of God, can return the soul to the body. Christ had healed them from spiritual death, raised them to new life. This was healing from physical death, the same as healing from disease, but more complete. Saving from sin and death, saving from sickness and death is all the same to Jesus. He speaks, and it is done.

Comfort in Fellowship

Acts 20:11-12 Paul and the others returned upstairs. They ate a meal. They **talked a long while**. Paul was leaving. There was much bread—spiritual bread—yet to be broken. There was much to teach, much to learn, much to share of love, of burdens, of hopes, of strength, and of faith in God. They talked on **till break of day**. They hated even the thought of parting. Then Paul left. But he left behind in Troas comforted hearts, comforted by the night of fellowship and by the love shown them by God in His raising of Eutychus to life. Hungry bodies had been fed, and hungry souls had been fed on the living bread.

The bond joining saints is not a business relationship or a social one. It is spiritual. Children of one Father, indwelt by one Spirit, living for one purpose and looking to one hope, saints have a closer bond than any the world knows. They are built together in one temple, members of one body, and members of one another (**Ephesians 2:22; Ephesians 4:25**). They are not strangers but brothers, brothers IN Christ. We see the effect of this in the fellowship enjoyed that night in Troas. Those saints were sitting together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 2:6**).

JUST A THOUGHT

It's better to be last in the traffic lane than first in the funeral procession.