



A Boy Falls from a Window

(based on Acts 20:7-12)

Paul had a job to do. He traveled to many different places telling people about Jesus.

One evening, Paul was teaching the followers of Jesus in a city called Troas. They met in a room on the third floor of a building. Everyone had to climb three flights of stairs to get to the meeting place.

There was lots of singing and teaching and praying. The people had so many questions for Paul that the meeting went on until very late at night.

One young man called Eutychus (YEW-ty-cus) found a good place to sit. The room was very crowded, so he sat right on the windowsill. There was no glass in the window and the cool night breeze blew in.

Paul talked about Jesus until past midnight. Eutychus started to get very sleepy. He tried to keep awake, but he kept getting sleepier and sleepier. Finally, he fell asleep in the window. As his body relaxed, something terrible happened. He fell out of the window onto the ground below. Everyone heard a loud crash as he landed!

Someone started screaming. Paul stopped speaking. Every head turned to the window.

“Eutychus fell out the window,” screamed a woman.

At first, everyone froze. Then all the people ran down the narrow stairs to pick the young man up, but it was no use. Eutychus lay completely still. He was not breathing. He was dead. A few people began to cry.

Paul pushed through the crowd, bent down, and held Eutychus.

“O God,” prayed Paul, “let this young man’s life return to him!”

Everyone stared at Paul and Eutychus. What would happen? Suddenly Paul smiled, “Don’t be afraid,” he cried. “Eutychus is alive!”

The people couldn’t believe their eyes. They held up their oil lamps and saw the young man moving. He was breathing. Eutychus was alive again!

They helped the young man to his feet. Everyone went back up to the third floor where they were meeting. They shared a meal together, and Paul talked with them for the rest of the night.

In the morning, the people said goodbye to Paul and took Eutychus home alive. They were thrilled that God had saved the young man.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Has anyone in your family ever been in the hospital? Did the pastor and/or others from the church visit? Did your church put the person on the prayer list? How did that care make your family feel?
- Does your church have late-night services and meetings? Wonder what it is like to be at a meeting that is so late someone goes to sleep. This story might be the first church lock-in!



Responding to God's Grace

- Have you ever had the breath knocked out of you? Tell your story. Did it seem like forever until you could breathe?
- Talk about safety in preventing falls, and what to do in the event of a fall. (In some cases, picking the person up is not a good idea.)
- Brainstorm some ideas with you children that they can do if they get sleepy or restless during worship services, such as a quiet book, a puzzle book, a worship bag, and so forth.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Does your church have a prayer list? Bring it home and pray for the people on the list.
- Learn about who cares for people who are sick, sad, or hurt in your church. It could be the deacons, Stephen ministers, or another group. Make cards to thank them for their care.
- Pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us to care for others. Put people in our path who need our help. Amen.