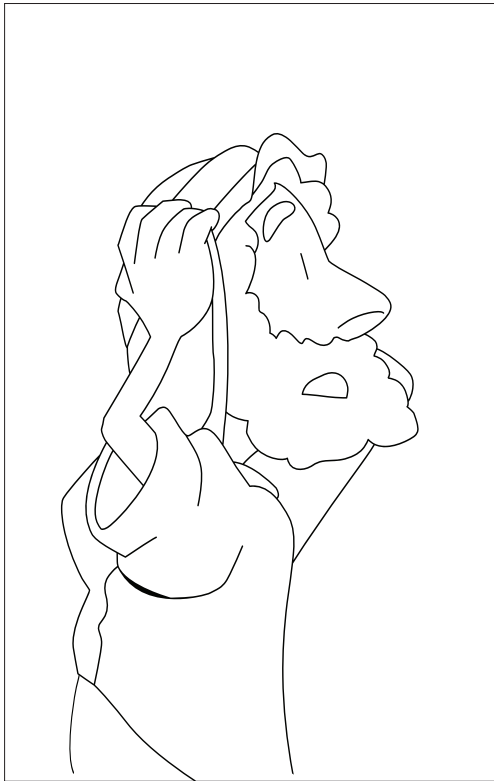


# An accident in Troas



## Colour me!



### Acts 20:3b-12

**Paul, many of his friends and followers, and Luke – who is the writer of this passage – went to the city of Troas, to avoid some people who had plotted against them.**

On the first day of the week we met to break bread together. Paul spoke to the people until midnight because he was leaving the next morning. In the upstairs room where we were meeting, there were a lot of lamps. A young man called Eutychus was sitting on a window sill. While Paul was speaking, the young man got very sleepy. Finally, he went to sleep and fell three floors all the way down to the ground. When they picked him up, he was dead.

Paul went down and bent over Eutychus. He took him in his arms and said, “Don’t worry! He’s alive.” After Paul had gone back upstairs, he broke bread, and ate with us. He then spoke until dawn and left. Then the followers took the young man home alive and were very happy.

## Commentary

Paul had many adventures on his travels around the eastern end of the Mediterranean. He shared the story of Jesus with thousands, helped set up churches and encouraged a number of travelling companions, including Timothy and Titus, to go on and become leaders. He also suffered for his faith: there were long and difficult journeys by sea; he was beaten up, spent time in prisons, was threatened by the authorities and on more than one occasion had to defend himself in public before angry crowds. But his faith in Jesus was strong and he never gave up. Finally, he knew that God wanted him to go to Rome. But he wanted to return to Jerusalem first, and, on the way, to say farewell to the many friends he had made. He must have suspected that his trip to Rome could well be his last journey.

Here at Troas, Paul met with the Christian church in a third-floor room of a building in the city. The meeting took place in the evening and poor Eutychus, who had probably been at work during the day, possibly as a slave in someone's home, was too tired to stay awake. His fall from the window proved fatal, but Paul brought him back to life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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## Questions

- ▶ What sort of things went on at a church service, according to this story?
- ▶ What do you think Paul had to say to the believers that evening?
- ▶ What gave Paul confidence to believe that he could pray for the young man who had died?
- ▶ What do you think Eutychus remembered of that evening?



## Visual aid

The room must have been very crowded. People were obviously sitting on the window sills and, because there was almost certainly no glass in the windows, this is why Eutychus fell. Can you arrange to sit (safely) on a window sill or near a window for today's story?



## Activity idea

Clearly Paul's storytelling went on for a very long time! Play a game in which the first person starts telling a made-up story, but, after ten seconds, there is a bell or other signal for the next person to pick up the story. Each person can take the story in whichever direction they like, but they must not finish it.



## Prayer idea

Pray for people like Eutychus who are hurt in accidents. Pray also for those involved in caring for sick or injured people. Think of ambulance staff, nurses, doctors, health workers and paramedics. Pray that they will exercise their skills and show compassion.

## Key verse

Paul took him in his arms and said, "Don't worry! He's alive" (Acts 20:10).

## Old Testament story link

Isaiah 43:1-7: God promises to be with us and help us, whatever we may be going through.



Colour me!

