

## Week 8 : Paul in Troas

**Theme** : God can work miracles through us.

**On arrival** : There are some puppet figures that can be used later on in the story. The puppets are designed so that the child's fingers can go through the holes to look like legs! One of them could be decorated as a woman or man.

### **Games** :

**Sleeping Lions** : Tell the children to lie on the floor with their eyes closed. They must lie very still. A leader or selected child can go round and look for movement. Try and distract the children. If they move, they are out.

**Just a minute**: Have a list of simple subjects written on cards: World cup, Kingsquad, my favourite colour, my pets etc. Divide the children into teams and have one child from each team up at the front. The first child ( team A) picks a subject card. They must speak on that subject for 1 minute without hesitation, repetition or -ums and -ers! If they flounder, their go ends and the minute continues with the next child ( team B and so on ). Which ever child is still speaking at the end of the minute wins a point for their team. Start the minute with a different team each time to make it fair.

**Are you sleeping?**: One child pretends to be asleep under a blanket in the centre of the room. The rest of the children walk around the circle saying, "Are you sleeping ? Are you sleeping ? You can't catch me!" When the "sleeping" child is ready they jump up and try and catch another player. If caught, a new child becomes the sleeper.

**Introduction**: Give each child a sheet of A4 paper, fold in half, then again and again and again until it can't be folded anymore. Then challenge the children to tear the folded paper in half. It is impossible.

**Story**: The story is from Acts 20 and tells the miraculous story of the Sleeping Man! The story is in the resources and could be told with the help of the finger puppets from the arrival activity.

**Application** : The crowds gathered to listen to Paul were shocked by the terrible accident of Eutychus falling to his death from the third floor window. With God's power, Paul was able to raise Eutychus from the dead. We often feel we can't do much and we don't have the skills to do important things. We might not be able to do miraculous things like Paul was able to do with God's help but we can pray that God will help us do the things we find difficult, especially those things that seem impossible for us.

**Memory verse**: *Jesus answered, "What is impossible for man is possible for God" Luke 18: 27*  
Put each word of the memory verse onto separate pieces of paper using a different colour for each team. Scrunch them up into balls and fill a bucket with them – all mixed colours. On "Go" the leader launches the paper balls into the air. Children have to catch them / retrieve their team colours and assemble the verse.

**Prayer**: As a group write a prayer that could be used as a bed time prayer at home. Maybe playing the song, "Wonderful Lord" will help. Keep it simple. Provide small pieces of paper and pencils to allow the children to copy down the prayer you have written collectively.

**Song**: *Wonderful Lord, Fandabidozzie CD, Doug Horley, Track 18*

**Resources**: There is a story, puppet template and funsheet in the resources.

*Use the puppet figures to act out this story. If there are lots of children they can sit and listen in groups , each group acting out the story with their puppets.*

After the riot in Ephesus, Paul decided to return to Jerusalem. He stayed in the city of Troas for a week, encouraging the followers to remain strong and faithful when he had gone. On the night before he was due to leave Paul spoke well into the night. No one stirred; everyone hung on his every word. They didn't want to miss a word of his message.

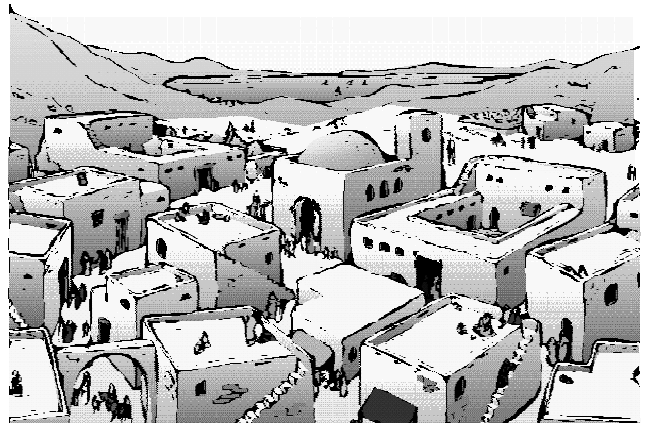
Paul continued speaking, On and on and on he spoke. A young man named Eutychus found himself desperately trying to stay awake and listen. It was late into the night and the air was warm. He became drowsier and drowsier. He thought that if he were to prop himself up against the window ledge and sit on his hands he would be too uncomfortable to doze. But it was no good. Still Paul preached and the crowd of listeners nodded their heads. Every now and again would cry out a loud, "Yes, brother!" and "Praise God". But still Eutychus struggled to keep his eye lids from drooping. Slowly, slowly, his eyes stayed closed and his head nodded. Finally, he fell asleep lulled by Paul's voice. Eutychus fell into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer!

Everyone was listening so carefully to Paul that no one noticed Eutychus nodding off to sleep. In fact, they didn't notice at all until .....

"AAAAhhh!" THUD! The sleeping man became the falling man as he tumbled three floors to the hard ground with a sickening thud! There were horrified gasps as everyone dashed to the window and peered out. Eutychus was lying in a lifeless heap on the floor below. Dead! Paul raced down stairs to reach the young man and others reacted with horror, Paul took the young man in his arms. "Don't worry," he said, "His life has returned to him."

Amazingly, Eutychus recovered almost at once. Rejoicing, all the friends made their way back into the house, where Paul continued preaching until daybreak. When Paul got to Miletus he sent word for the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him there. When they were gathered together, he talked to them. He told them how he had preached the truth to them. He knew that hardship and persecution awaited him in Jerusalem. He urged them to be good shepherds in caring for the members of the church. Paul knelt down with them and prayed. They all cried and hugged and kissed him. They were extremely sad because he had told them they would never see him again. Then they went to the ship and Paul departed.

*Jesus answered,  
 "What is impossible  
 for man is possible  
 for God"  
 Luke 18: 27*

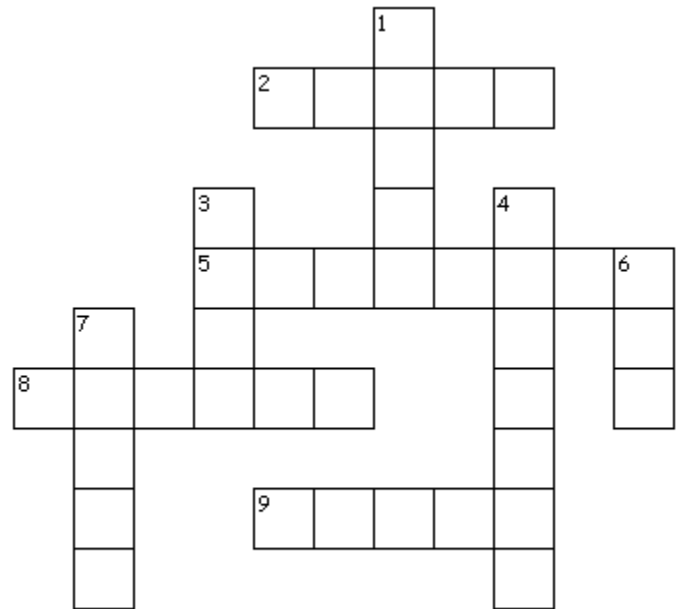


Across

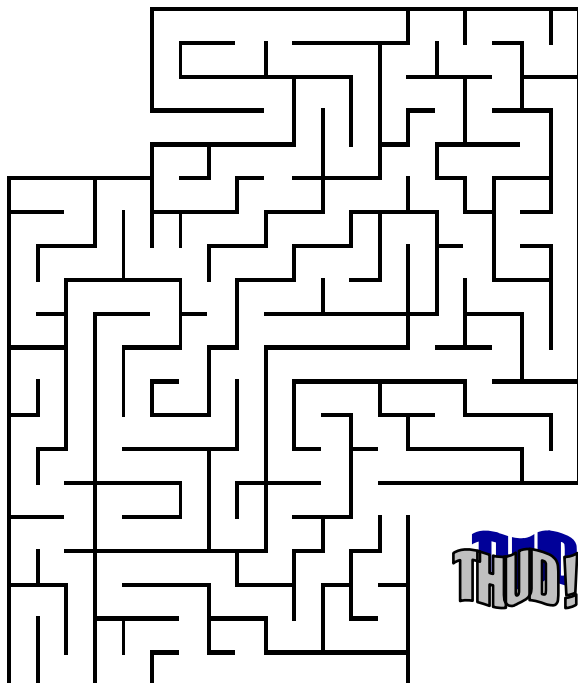
- 2. The city Paul was staying in ?
- 5. The name of the young man listening?
- 8. Where did Eutychus sit ?
- 9. Eutychus was trying to stay .....

Down

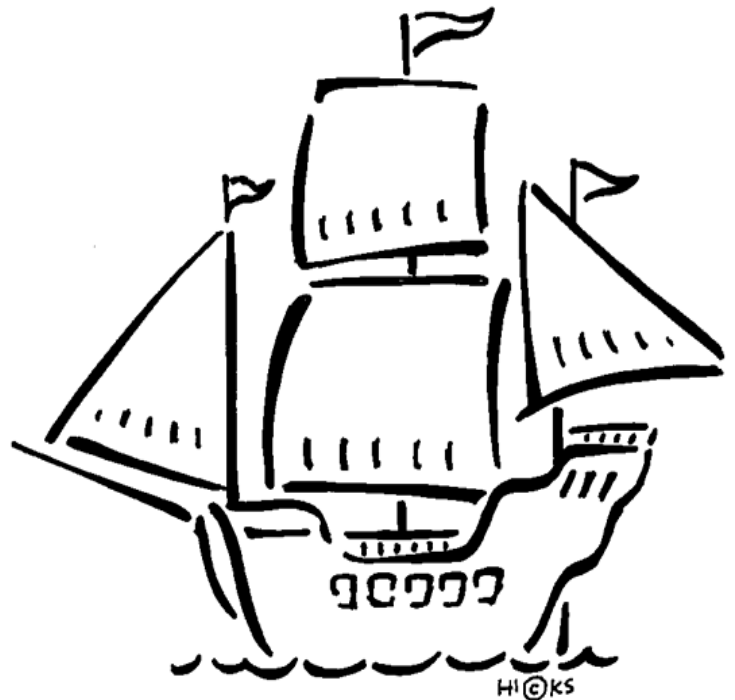
- 1. Paul told the people not to ....?
- 3. What was his condition ?
- 4. How did the people feel ?
- 6. How did the people feel when Paul left ?
- 7. What time of day was it ?



Poor Eutychus fell out of the window. Trace the route of his fall!



**THUD!**



Decorate  
puppets. Cut out  
holes for finger 'legs'



cut ●

This one could be a  
man (with a biblical  
head-dress OR a  
woman! →

