

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer ways for you to grow personally as well as in community through Personal Growth Guides and Summer School @ The Gathering. Personal Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and will be available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online. You may sign up for Summer School any Sunday between now and June 9.

COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BEGIN AGAIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

How many of us can relate to having an incredible experience at church but then never seeing the excitement of that service carry over into our everyday lives? In Acts 20, we find the story of a young man who also had quite an exciting experience in a church service. His name was Eutychus, and his experience included dying and being raised back to life. The difference between him and us is that "he was carried home alive." In fact, this week's Big Idea challenges us to see what takes place on Sunday carried over into our Monday. It simply states, "**When Jesus touches us, we leave differently than we came.**" Along with that statement, Paul made these observations as well:

1. **They met on the first day of the week (verse 7):** We see that the early church met on the first day of the week. For so long, Jews kept the Sabbath and met corporately on Saturdays, but the resurrection changed everything and the early church began meeting together on Sundays.
2. **Paul preached a long time (verse 7):** Paul teaching a long time (until midnight and then until daybreak!), basically because he was leaving the next day and would likely never see these friends again. What we do in our final moments often reveals what we value the most. For these believers and for Paul, that was Jesus and the scriptures.
3. **A young man ran out of luck (verse 9):** Eutychus (weird name, huh?) was in his early 20s and fell asleep while Paul talked, and eventually fell out of the window and died. Ironically, his name meant "good luck" (which he apparently ran out of) and so Paul stopped talking, prayed him back to life, and then continued talking until morning!
4. **They took the young man home alive (verse 12):** Sometimes we can miss simple things because they seem so, well, simple. But Luke makes a point to let us know that the young man went home ALIVE instead of dead, and it's important for us to remember that when Jesus touches us, we should leave differently than we came. What happens in church is shouldn't stay in church!

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What was one helpful, eye-opening, or troubling insight or principle from this week's message?
- Describe a time when you experienced something great in a service but never felt like it "carried over" into the other areas of your life.
- Read Luke 9:23. What are the key components of this verse? What did it mean to "take up your cross" in light of verse 22? Why do you think Jesus included the word "daily" in this command instead of "once a week?"
- One of the practical beliefs we have at The Gathering is that "Sundays are the least important day of the week." How does leaving church differently so we can live life differently help us elevate the importance of THE OTHER SIX days of the week?
- As church attendance continues to decline, why do you think it's so important to live life differently outside of the 2 hours in church on Sundays?