

## Di122 Essentials of Christianity

### *Lesson Di122-26 Church: Fellowship*

How do you face challenges in your life? When you encounter a difficulty, do you try to solve the problem yourself, or do you ask others for help? As believers we have wisdom available to us from others in God's family. Many times they can help us. In the lesson today, a young man needed help. Help came as mature believers gathered around him and prayed. In the end, he was very grateful for the church family that was meeting together in fellowship.

Paul referred to the church as the body of Christ. He talked about the various members, or parts of the Body. "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us" (Rom 12:4-6). Each part is concerned about every other part of the Body. They fellowship together and use their gifts to minister to one another. This story imagines some of the details of the Bible story found in the Book of Acts, chapter 20.

"I, Eutychus, remember clearly when the apostle Paul came to Troas, my hometown. He stayed for a week. There was a group of about eight men traveling with him, but that's beside the point. What I want to tell you is how the church loved gathering together—how they loved each other as brothers and sisters. God supplied all the needs of his family. There was an anticipation that God would meet with us. I am so glad that he met with the Body that particular night, because if he had not, I would not be telling you what happened.

"I can say personally that what happens as we fellowship with other believers is nothing short of miraculous, as God meets with us. Our church is no exception. An outstanding miracle came to our church. It happened like this: On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. I remember that he was preaching to the church upstairs on the third floor. The place was packed. The lamps were lit and the best seat in the house, I felt, was at the back on one of the window sills. I decided to sit there while I listened. With the flickering lights and the warm air escaping through the window, I fell asleep as Paul talked on and on. This is where it gets foggy.

"I was listening with all the other believers. The next thing I remember is a group of people were gathered around me down in the street, praying loudly and looking excited about something. The apostle Paul had come down and had thrown himself on me. He had put his arms around me and was saying, 'Don't be alarmed, he's alive!' Was I ever surprised to hear the story later!

"To say that my life was changed is an understatement. I had fallen asleep, as the apostle Paul had kept on preaching. Well, naturally as I slipped into sleep and relaxed, gravity did the rest. I fell three stories to the stone street below and they picked me up dead. But Paul and others stepped in with great faith, laid hands on me, and by the power of God brought me back to life.

“This was exciting to the whole Body. For me personally, I found out something that has helped me to this day. Through this experience I found that God’s family is fully equipped to do his work on earth. This is the way his Body works. It is united one to another. The important thing is that the body of Christ, the church, is fully equipped to handle whatever the Body needs. In my case the Body needed faith to pray for my life. Had I been a part of an unbelieving group when this accident happened, no one would have prayed. God would not have acted. I am so glad that I am a part of the body of Christ. All needs are resolved as we go to our Lord and Savior (Acts 20:7-12).

“As Paul says, ‘Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many’ (1Cor 12:12-14).

“I was sitting on the window sill instead of right up front actively involved. I was just sitting beside the Body, instead of really being a part of the Body. After I fell and the Body prayed for me, I became much more involved. I became aware of the importance of meeting together with other believers. I also saw the need for me to take an active part in helping others in their situations, as best I can. That’s what I learned that night in Troas.”

The Bible says, “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb 10:23-25).

This lesson is **important** because it teaches us that we need the fellowship of the body of Christ. Each member of the Body is important and each needs the gifts and resources of the others. Together we can impact our world for Christ and see more members added to the church.

The **main truth** of this lesson is the way the Early Church functioned as tightly knit groups. They cared for one another and provided for those in need. Each person who believes in Christ needs other members of the Body.

Your **review** questions are:

1. What happened to the main character in the story? [Pause]
  - A. If you answered, “The main character in the story fell asleep on the window sill, and died as he fell to the ground and hit the street below,” you answered correctly.
2. How did God meet his need in the story? [Pause]
  - A. If you answered, “Paul and members of the church prayed for Eutychus and God brought him back to life,” you are correct.
3. How has God provided for the needs of his people? [Pause]
  - A. If you answered, “God provides for his people through his Body, the church,” you are right.

Your **assignment** is to listen to the lesson several times. Explain the story to another believer and go over the review questions. Help the person come to an understanding of just how important it is to belong to the body of Christ.

Memorize this Bible verse: “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:23-25).