



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

Raised from the Dead

Scripture: Acts 20:1-12

Memory Verse: John 11:25

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’”

For My Family:

Paul had been in Ephesus for two whole years, but after the uproar his presence had caused, he knew it was time to depart. He gathered the disciples (followers of Jesus) and embraced them. They had become his family and it was sad to leave them. Maybe you know what it's like to move away and say goodbye to good friends. You don't know when or if you will see them again. Paul did this again and again as he traveled: making disciples, teaching them God's Word, then leaving to do the same thing somewhere else. The church grew rapidly because of this, but having to say so many goodbyes must have been hard. Back then, they didn't even have phones! This is why Paul wrote so many letters. Thankfully, we know that for those of us who follow Jesus, every goodbye is really just a, “See you later.” One day, we will all be reunited in glory, never to be separated again, and what a day that will be!

After Paul left, he gained some new traveling companions, one of which was Dr. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts. We always know when Luke has rejoined Paul because he switches to the pronoun, “we.” As you can imagine, there's little that would impress a doctor more than someone who had died being brought back to life. Paul was in Troas, and the disciples were gathered on the first day of the week (Sunday). They met in the evening because Sunday was a workday, but that didn't stop them from gathering to hear Paul teach!

Paul didn't have long in Troas and had a lot he wanted to say! A young man was so tired that he fell asleep while Paul was teaching. Normally, this wouldn't be an issue. Maybe you have even fallen asleep in church before! But you've probably never fallen asleep in the opening of the third-story window. The young man fell to the ground and Paul rushed down the steps to find him dead! But Paul had faith that God would raise him, and God did! He not only raised him from the dead, but healed his body. No broken bones, no bleeding, he just got up, came inside, and Paul got right back to teaching.

I'm sure everyone was wide awake after that! As you can imagine, the disciples “were not a little comforted.” That means that they were very comforted, and no doubt very encouraged. God was with them. The God who raised Jesus from the dead had raised this young man. But most of the time people die and God doesn't raise their body back to life, and this is sad for us. But Paul would later write that we don't sorrow like those who don't know Jesus, because Jesus *does* raise from the dead, even if we don't see it happening. When a follower of Jesus dies, they immediately go to be with Him, and we are comforted knowing that one day we will join them. This is the very reason Jesus came: to give everlasting life!

Questions for Young Children:

What was the name of the young man who fell asleep?

What did Paul do after the young man was raised from the dead?

What does God want us to remember when people we care about die?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why did Paul only stay for short amounts of time in the cities he traveled to?

Why do you think God raised Eutychus?

When was a time that God really comforted you? (Parents, if they can't think of a specific time help them remember or share a time from your life when God has comforted you.)