

## My Witnesses - A Study of Acts Discussion Guide: Week 49 - Acts 20:1-16

**Summary of this week's teaching:** This week's text tells the story of a young man named Eutychus, who attended a church service in Troas to listen to Paul preach. Unfortunately, this young man positioned himself on a window ledge. While he was technically in the service, he was also right on the edge, right between the light of the room and the darkness of the night outside. During the marathon service, Eutychus grew drowsy and eventually fell asleep, which led him to plummet from the third-story to the ground below. This unusual account illustrates to us the very real risks of flirting with the edge, toying with darkness, and spiritually falling asleep.

**Connect:** Relational questions to get conversations started.

1. Have you ever fallen asleep at an inappropriate time/place? If so, please share.

**Seed:** The Bible, God's inspired Word, is very much like a seed - it contains everything we need to experience life. Please read the following passages of scripture as a group: (perhaps in two different translations) Acts 20:1-16 and Ephesians 5:1-14.

1. How many differences between Paul and Eutychus do you notice in this passage? While we do not know the condition of Eutychus's heart, he serves as a powerful illustration of what it looks like for a believer to fall asleep spiritually. What lessons does his story teach you?
2. Ephesians 5 states that once we were darkness, and now we are light. How are spiritual darkness and light described? How do we walk in the light?
3. Are you aware of any other passages of scripture that speak of spiritual light/darkness, or of spiritual sleep/wakefulness?

**Roots:** Like subterranean tree roots which extend in all directions searching out water, each believer needs to grow and develop spiritual roots that allow us to make personal connections with our God.

1. How can you know that you are spiritually awake and walking in the light?
2. How does your ongoing personal connection with the Lord affect this?

**Trunk:** Without trunks, plants may be large, useful, and beautiful, but they are not trees. The same is true for our faith - without it we are not saved and cannot please God. These questions will help us grow our faith in Him.

1. Please read 1 Thessalonians 5:5. What does it mean to fall asleep spiritually? Conversely, what does it mean for us to "watch and be sober?"

**Crown:** Crowns are the glory of a tree; the culmination of the roots and trunk working in harmony and can be seen for miles around. The crown of a tree represents the visible portion of our faithlife. These questions will encourage us to apply these principles into our everyday lives.

1. Are there areas in your life where you are flirting with darkness or growing spiritually sleepy? What steps can you take to stay awake and walk in the light?
2. Please read James 5:19-20. Is there anyone in your life who needs your help to wake them from their spiritual slumber? How can you do this with love and grace?

