

Gathered For Encouragement

1. They Traveled Far to Encourage One Another.

2. They Gathered to Worship Christ Together.

3. Communion and Resurrection Comfort the Saints.

CONCLUSION: The people of God gathered together every Lord's Day to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, join in His feast, and learn together from His Word. These basics of Christian weekly worship not only honor the Lord, but also encourage the saints. God lovingly provides a picture of our weakness in the weariness of young Eutychus who not only falls asleep, like the disciples in Gethsemane, but falls to his death. He is raised to life again, harkening back to both Elijah and Elisha, and further authenticating Paul as an apostle speaking God's Word. How are we considering how we can stir one another up to love and good deeds?

First Kings 17: 17 – 24

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹ And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ And he cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?” ²¹ Then *he stretched himself upon the child* three times and cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child’s life come into him again.” ²² And the Lord listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, “*Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.*”

Hebrews 10: 19 – 25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² *let us draw near* with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And *let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,* ²⁵ *not neglecting to meet together,* as is the habit of some, but *encouraging one another,* and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

First Corinthians 16: 1 – 4

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ² On the *first day of every week*, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³ And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Weekly worship services on Sunday (the Lord's Day) were normal for God's people by the middle of the first century AD. Here we see the ordinary means of grace (Word & Sacrament) as well as an extraordinary work of resurrection all for the encouragement of God's people.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 20:1-12; First Kings 17:17-24; Hebrews 10:19-25; First Corinthians 16:1-4**. DISCUSS, How were the preaching of God's Word and the celebration of the Lord's Supper practiced in Acts? How is that consistent with the rest of Scripture? PRAY "Lord Jesus, forgive us for not worshipping You as we should. Teach us to praise You and encourage one another as You would have us do."

Sunday Evening

For *Young Adult Bible Study* this evening we will gather at the parsonage (41 Elm) for a cookout at 6pm.

Monday

READ **Acts 20:1-12; Revelation 4:1-11; First Peter 1:3-9**. DISCUSS, Compare and contrast what you see in the gathering of God's people to worship Jesus in these first two passages. How does the hope of resurrection encourage us together? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 10:24-25**. PRAY "Lord, make us faithful in singing Your praises in the midst of Your assembly. Use us to encourage one another in the gospel hope of resurrection and to be satisfied in nothing less."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 20:1-12; Hebrews 3:7-19, Second Timothy 3:16-17**. DISCUSS: How are we to exhort one another? Why? How does sin's deceitfulness make it especially important for us to encourage *one another* with God's Word? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 10:24-25**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways we neglect our brothers and sisters through a lack of biblical encouragement. Embolden us to do so."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 20:1-12; Hebrews 10:19-25; Psalm 107:23-32**. DISCUSS, What gives us confidence to enter into the holy place of Gathered Worship? How does Lord's Day worship incorporate both praise of God and encouragement of His people? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 10:24-25**. PRAY "Lord receive our worship through Christ and use it to encourage the saints."

Thursday

READ **Acts 20:1-12; First Kings 17:17-24; Second Kings 4:18-37** DISCUSS, Do you see any similarities between the raising of these young men? What do these signs show? How does the Lord's Supper point us to the same reality? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 10:24-25**. PRAY "Jesus, revive our hearts and renew our trust in You for new life."

Friday

READ **Acts 20:1-12; First Kings 17:17-24; Hebrews 10:19-25; First Corinthians 16:1-4**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Hebrews 10:24-25**. PRAY "Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us."

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.* READ **Acts 20:1-38**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.