

# Going to Church

What is the longest sermon or speech you have ever heard? Was it hard to be still and quiet? Did you get tired or sleepy? Today we learned about a time when Paul preached a very long sermon. He preached all the way until midnight! He preached so long that Eutychus, a young man, fell asleep! He was sitting in a third story window and fell to his death! When Paul realised what happened, he ran downstairs, held the boy in his arms and said, "He is not dead". Eutychus was raised from the dead!

This story has a happy ending, but what can we learn from it? Well, this was one of the very first church services that took place and we are going to look at how we should act/ behave when we are in church. It can be very difficult when you are young to sit still and listen to the pastor talking in church, but let's look at some helpful "tips" for going to church.

Let's act it out. Let's "build" our own church. Get some chairs and pack them out like they would be in a church service. Put a small table or anything else you have in front of the chairs, that's where the pastor would stand. Now we are all going to pretend together. Let's all sit in church together and then we're going to act out all of these helpful tips below:

- Go to the bathroom and get a drink before church starts so you won't have to get up while others are listening.
- Be seated and greet the people around you before the service starts.
- Stand up and sing along with everyone else.
- Bow your head and close your eyes during the prayers.
- When the pastor mentions a verse in the Bible, try to look it up and read it in your own Bible. Let's look up Acts 20:10 together. (*Assist younger children with this*)
- If you don't understand what is being said and are having trouble listening, then look up other verses in your Bible or think of a worship song and sing it silently in your heart. This will help you think about God. Be sure to ask your parents about the things you didn't understand after the service.
- Bring along a notebook or notepad to:
  - Write down or draw things the pastor says.
  - Copy Bible verses from your Bible.
  - Write down words you don't understand so you can ask your parents later.
- If you get tired of sitting, then stretch your muscles in a way that doesn't disturb the people sitting around you.

Those are some really helpful tips and I hope practicing them will help you remember what to do the next time you're in church.