

# FACING HARDSHIP

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*How the Early Church Dealt with Difficulty*



# BEFORE WE BEGIN=

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- Please make sure your information in the directory is current.
  - The elders will be communicating information about our future schedule via calls, texts, and emails.
  - Please especially make sure your email address is correct.
- Text Tyler Sams or Cody Blount if you need help updating your information in the directory.
- Reach out to an elder or deacon if you have a need.

# THE JERUSALEM CHURCH

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- **There were three big sources of external difficulty for the early church in Jerusalem:**
  - **The beginning of the church at Jerusalem with numerous out-of-towners - Acts 2.5-12; 4.32-37**
    - **What was their response? 4.32-37**
  - **The persecution which arose after the death of Stephen - Acts 8.1-3**
    - **What was their response? 8.2,4**
  - **The famine which struck Judea - Acts 11.27-30**
    - **What was the response? 1 Corinthians 16; Romans 15**



# WHAT DO WE LEARN?

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- The church is designed to look after and care for its own.
  - Will we use this time to check on each other?
  - What “orphans and widows” and other susceptible groups in the church might need our care?
- Members of the church freely shared their possessions with their brethren.
  - Are we willing to share with our brethren?







***“Wash your hands,  
you sinners”***

*James 4.8*

*New International Version*



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  - Principle of 2 Corinthians 8.12-14
- The overwhelming power of Christ in us.
  - Romans 8.34-39

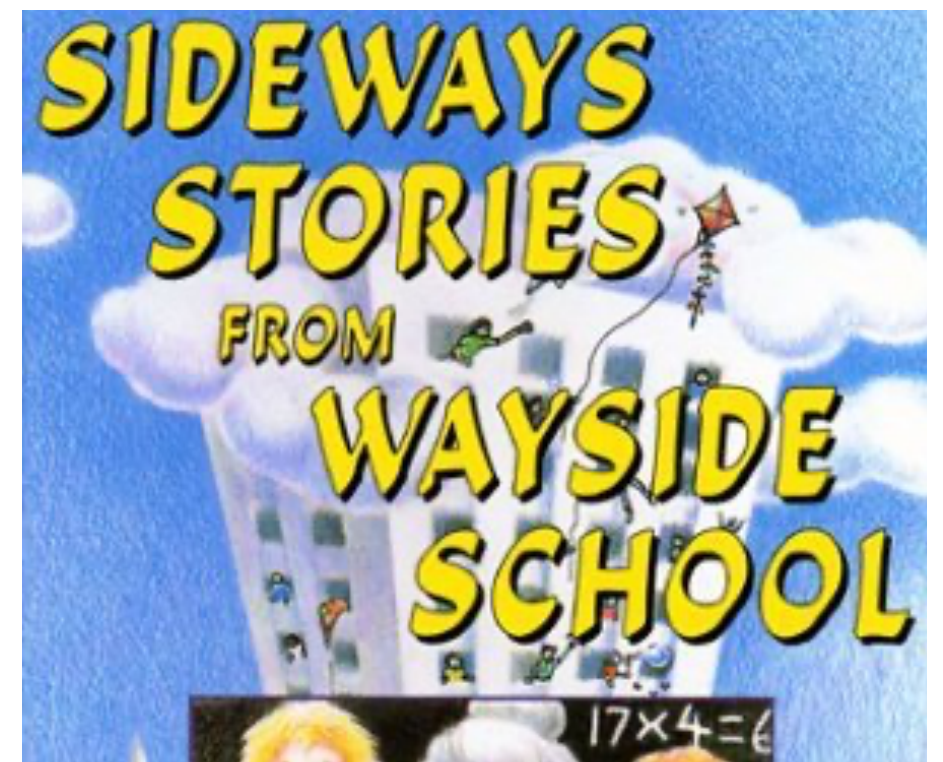


# **PRACTICAL GODLINESS=**

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- **Use some of your new-found free time to building up your relationships:**
  - **Build your relationship with God through prayer, reading, and service toward others.**
    - **If you have unexpected free time, challenge yourself to read and pray for 20min each day.**
  - **Build your relationship with your spouse through whatever means your spouse needs.**
    - **Quality time? Acts of service? Affirmation?**
  - **Renew your relationship with your kids.**
    - **Make time for spiritual things.**
    - **Talk — genuine talk. Share things from your childhood.**







# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

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- **Don't let fear paralyze your thinking or acting.**
  - **Romans 8.14-17**
  - **Remember the blessings of being God's child!**
- **Find opportunities to be useful towards others who are in need.**
  - **Luke 10.36-37**
  - **Remember to be a servant, like our Savior!**
- **Remember death has been conquered.**
  - **Hebrews 2.14-18**
  - **Remember the hope and peace that is in Jesus!**