



UNIT 35 | SESSION 4

PAUL WENT TO ROME

ACTS 27-28

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue him from the storm.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 25:1

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

In today's passage, we read of the troublesome conditions Paul and his shipmates experienced on their way to Rome. From troubles with the weather and waters to issues with others aboard the ship, the men's hope of survival was fading quickly. Even still, Paul believed in God's promise to keep him safe on his mission to proclaim the gospel in that great city.

What lessons about perseverance can we glean from this passage? How does God reveal His faithfulness to His people throughout their time aboard this dangerous ship?

So much seemed to be working against Paul in these passages. To begin with, the purpose of this trip was to appeal to the highest powers in the Roman courts against his unfair arrest and condemnation from the Jewish elite. It was in these dire circumstances that God revealed he would safely arrive to proclaim the gospel there. However, the esteemed apostle and his shipmates were not met with smooth sailing.

They battled terrible conditions from all sides — stormy winds that wouldn't cooperate, brutal winter weather that wouldn't let up, an inability to eat for days on end, and no means of securing direction from the sun or stars. Some of the sailors had even plotted an escape from this dire situation at hand, hopelessly believing they could not be saved from their circumstances.

Through it all, Paul took on a leadership role on the ship, giving advice as to how they could avoid great loss by not going forward from Crete as planned. Although the men didn't listen, Paul was later able to give other encouragement to his peers, sharing with them the words that an angel had spoken to him: "Don't be afraid." Paul trusted in His Savior Jesus to continue the work and mission He had begun in the apostle's life and knew that God could be trusted.

Consider all the things working against Paul in just this chapter alone. Then, reflect on the God who had revealed His great plans for the apostle. Pray for God to grant the same miraculous gift of faith to you and to your group as you relay this incredible story of God's faithfulness, no matter the storm.

PLACES TO KNOW

Rome: a significant center of influence where Paul wanted to preach the gospel and share the Christian faith to reach more people and strengthen the early Christian community



PAUL WENT TO ROME

Paul was a prisoner in Caesarea (cess uh REE uh). He had asked to see Caesar about his case. Caesar was the leader of the Roman Empire. So one day, Paul was put on a ship with other prisoners and soldiers going to Rome.

The journey was difficult. As they sailed, strong winds and rain tossed the ship. The ship was blown off course. No matter how hard they tried to steer the ship in the right direction, the wind was too strong. For many days, they battled the storm. The sailors threw things overboard to make the ship lighter. They were afraid the ship would break into pieces and they would drown in the deep sea.

One night, God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul to not be afraid. God would save the lives of everyone on the ship. Paul told everyone on board what God had said. "Take courage," he said. Paul believed everything would happen just like God said. The people on the ship would not die. They would have to run the ship onto an island.

The ship got close to an island, and some of the sailors tried to escape in a lifeboat. Paul told them to stay on the ship if they wanted to be safe. The sailors listened to Paul. In the morning, Paul told everyone it was time to eat. They hadn't eaten in about two weeks and were very hungry. He thanked God and broke the bread, and everyone ate. Then they sailed closer to the island.

When the ship got close to the island of Malta, the sailors raised the sails and headed toward the island. As the ship got close, it struck a sandbar and stopped. The waves crashed into the ship, and it began to break into pieces. An army officer ordered everyone to swim for shore. Those who could not swim clung to the planks and pieces of the ship. They all made it safely to shore. Paul was right; God saved all of their lives.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue him from the storm. He encouraged the sailors to trust and obey God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to invite others to believe this good news as well.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

- Isaiah 25:1, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

We've had this memory verse for four weeks now, so kids should know most of it! Our verse, written above, is Isaiah 25:1.

Write the memory verse on the whiteboard. Have kids follow along as you read it (*encourage them to use the motions they've created if that helps*). Then, erase 1-2 words and have them say the verse again, filling in the blanks where words have been erased. Continue erasing 1-2 words until they're saying the verse completely by memory.



GAME DAY

It's Game Day for our younger kids and Gym Day for our older kids!

After Large Group, stay in the Large Group room to play, or go outside if the weather allows! Ask Taylor or a Hall Captain for balls and chalk for kids to play with outside.

SUGGESTED GAME #1

Take the provided parachute and have kids sit down with their legs out. Put the parachute over their legs like a blanket.

Choose one kid to be the “shark” and one to be the “lifeguard”. The shark will go under the parachute on their hands and knees while the lifeguard will be walking around the circle. When you say “go,” all the kids will create waves in the parachute to disguise where the shark is.

The shark will be crawling around and will try to pull someone by the legs under the parachute. If a kid is being pulled under, have them yell “save me”. The lifeguard must get to them and pull them back to shore by their arms before the shark pulls them under.

If they're saved, they go back to making waves and the shark picks a new target. If they're not saved, they join the shark and try to pull more kids under the parachute. The last kid left wins!

SUGGESTED GAME #2

Use the provided painter's tape to create a start and finish line on the floor. Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a hula hoop.

Explain that the hula hoop is a pretend “ship”. Lead groups to stand behind the start line. When you say “go,” they must all hold on to the hula hoop and race toward the finish line. When you yell “shipwreck,” the team must drop their hula hoop on the floor and all get inside it.

The last team to get inside the hula hoop is “shipwrecked” and is out. Continue playing until one team crosses the finish line.



GAME/GYM DAY

It's Game Day for our younger kids and Gym Day for our older kids!

After Large Group, take your class to the gym to play.

SUGGESTED GAME #1

Take the provided balloons and blow 5-10 of them up. Have kids spread out around the room. Distribute the balloons. When you say “go,” challenge kids to keep the balloons in the air for as long as possible without them touching the ground, any chairs, tables, or other objects.

Time them using your phone, and when a balloon hits the ground or another object, stop the timer. Play again to see if kids can beat their time. Add a challenge by saying they can only use their heads or only use their feet to keep the balloons up!

SUGGESTED GAME #2

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

At the end of the day, or during game time, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. How did God show He was with Paul during the storm? How is God with us?
2. Is God always protecting us? Why?
3. How can we trust God has a plan even when things look bad?
4. How can we encourage others to trust in God when they might be afraid?
5. Even while Paul faced a scary storm, he thanked God. Why can we give thanks to God at any time?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your classroom. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your class!



BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in holder
5. Turn off TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!