



UNIT 35 | SESSION 4

PAUL WENT TO ROME

ACTS 27-28

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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

MEMORY VERSE

Lord, I will praise Your name. Isaiah 25:1



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.

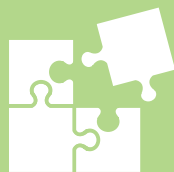
Through it all, Paul took on a leadership role on the ship, giving advice as to how they could avoid great loss by not going forward from Crete as planned. Although the men didn't listen, Paul was later able to give other encouragement to his peers, sharing with them the words that an angel had spoken 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

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY #1: SAFE OR UNSAFE

Describe different situations briefly. Have children stand up if the action is safe and sit down if the action is unsafe. Choose actions that might be familiar to children, such as:

- When I get in the car, I buckle my seat belt.
- I look before I cross the road
- I kick my brother when he makes me mad.
- I hold my mother's hand in busy parking lots.
- I ride my bike in my driveway away from the road.
- I only swim when an adult is with me.
- I run across the road without looking.

Talk briefly about each situation and clarify if it is safe or unsafe.

CONNECT THE DOTS



The Bible tells us God kept Paul and the people on the boat safe. Paul was a prisoner and he didn't choose to be on a boat in a storm. We should make good choices to stay safe and God will take care of us, too. God loves us and is always with us!

CONNECT THE DOTS



We worked together to make storm sounds. That makes me think of the storm that Paul went through. Do you like to listen to rain? Sometimes it's a soft, gentle rain that sounds like this [*Rub hands together.*] and sometimes it's a harder rain like this [*Pat hands on legs.*].

ACTIVITY #2: MAKE STORM SOUNDS

Give children directions to make the sounds of a storm using either the provided instruments or their hands and feet. Guide them to rub their hands gently together, increase the intensity of rubbing, clap them softly and then loudly, pat them on their legs, and snap their fingers.

Add a few foot stomps for thunder. Then do the actions in reverse as the storm moves away.

CRAFT & EXAMPLE



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible story

CONNECT THE DOTS



Today's Bible story takes place on a ship on its way to Rome. The journey was not easy. The boat was in a big storm and later it hit a sandbar and broke into pieces. In the midst of these things, though, everyone was safe. God protected the people on the ship. Paul trusted God to keep him safe. He told the others to trust God too. We can trust God. He always keeps His promises.

CRAFT: DECORATE BOATS

Supplies: boat pieces, stickers, markers/crayons

Give each child a boat kit and decorating utensils. Have them use the provided materials to decorate their boat.

Once everyone is finished decorating, fill the provided bin with water and have children take turns seeing whose boat floats!





PREPARE

Open your Bible to **Acts 27-28** and tell the following story.

PAUL WENT TO ROME

Paul was a prisoner, and he was going to Rome to see Caesar, the emperor. Paul got on a ship with other prisoners going to Rome. But a big storm made the journey difficult. Strong winds, waves, and rain pushed the ship up and down. All the people on the ship were afraid they would die.

God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul to not be afraid. God was going to keep everyone on the ship safe. Paul told the other people on the ship what God had said. "Be brave," he said. "I believe God is telling the truth. We will be safe, but we have to get the ship onto an island."

One night, 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 were really hungry because they hadn't eaten in two weeks. Paul thanked God and broke the bread, and everyone ate. Then they sailed closer to the island.

All of a sudden, the ship hit a sandbar in the water and got stuck. The waves crashed into the ship, and it began to break into pieces. A soldier in charge told everyone to swim to the shore. Anyone who could not swim clung to the pieces of the ship. Everyone made it to shore. God had kept all of them safe.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul trusted God's promise to keep everyone safe from the storm. God wants us to trust Jesus. God sent Jesus to save us from sin.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What did the angel tell Paul?
4. Why should we praise Jesus? We should praise Jesus for all He has done for us.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!