

Parent's Guide (Children's Church and Sunday School Alternative)

Session: The Shipwreck

Bible Passage: Acts 27:13-44; 28:11-16

Main Point: God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

Before the lesson starts...

Younger Kids's Activity page

Invite your kids to complete the "Shipwreck Word Search" on the activity page. Kids will find and circle the words hidden in the grid of letters.

Say • The words you found all had to do with ships or sailing, just like our story today. We will hear about Paul on the way to Rome. While sailing to Rome, a large storm tossed Paul's boat! That sounds really scary. Do you think Paul was scared? We'll find out more in our story.

Older Kid's Activity page

Invite your kids to complete "Survival at Sea" on the activity page. Kids should use the clues to fill in the blanks and discover what Paul faced in today's Bible story.

Say • Paul faced suffering and trials as he shared the good news about Jesus. He was arrested and put in prison. People tried to kill him.

Do you think a shipwreck could stop Paul? Would that be the final straw? We will find out in today's Bible story.

Introduction

Ask you kids to share about a time they made someone else a promise. Did they keep the promise? Why or why not?

Say • We are going to learn today how Paul was in another difficult situation, but he trusted God to rescue him. God always keeps His promises.

Session starter

Meant to protect

Challenge kids to think of and share things that protect them in various situations. (Examples: sunscreen in the sun, helmet on bike, and so on) List their ideas on a chalkboard, dry erase board, or paper.

Say • You all shared some great examples of things that are meant to protect you from harm; but I have a question: Will sunscreen protect you from a shark bite? These things are helpful in some situations, but they can't protect you from everything.

In the Bible story we will hear today, Paul needed protection during a storm. Nothing he or the sailors on the boat could do would keep them safe. We'll find out what happened when Paul was shipwrecked.

Transition to teach the story

Recap

Say • The Bible tells us the story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. In the New Testament, we find the story of

Paul, a believer who helped spread the gospel—the good news about Jesus. We've heard some incredible stories about how Paul boldly shared Jesus. A couple weeks ago, we heard about the Jewish people's plan to stop Paul. They wanted to kill Paul, but Paul was arrested. **When Paul was arrested, God protected him so he could preach about Jesus.**

Last week, we learned about Paul before rulers. **Paul preached about Jesus to governors and kings**, just as God had chosen him to do. He was all set to go to Rome to see Caesar.

Today we are right here [*point to today's story on the timeline*] where Paul's story really gets stormy. Today's story is called "The Shipwreck." Uh-oh. It sounds like Paul's trip to Rome wasn't exactly a piece of cake.

Tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Acts 27:13-44; 28:11-16 and read it aloud together. Then watch the bible story video "The Shipwreck" which can be found on our website at www.calerabaptist.org/thisweek

Say • God had appeared to Paul in prison and told him he would go to Rome to tell people about Jesus. But Paul spent a couple of years in prison before he finally got on a ship to go to Rome. Many prisoners were aboard the ship, along with some soldiers who looked after them. An angel appeared to Paul at night and said Paul would make it to Rome and all of the people on the ship would survive.

God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar. When the ship wrecked near the island of Malta, no one on the ship was hurt.

Paul finally got to Rome, and he was allowed to live in a house. A soldier stayed there to guard Paul, but people were allowed to visit him. Some of Paul's visitors heard the gospel and believed in Jesus.

God worked everything out for His plan. God still works today, giving believers strength and courage through the Holy Spirit so that people all over the world will hear the gospel and believe. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.***

Christ connection

Say • Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue them from the storm. He encouraged the sailors to trust and obey God, too. God called Paul to trust Him in a tough situation. God also wants us to trust His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to tell others this good news.

Key passage

Read together Philippians 1:20-21.

Leader • In our Bible story, Paul's life was in danger once again. He faced a storm and a shipwreck, but he stood strong in his faith in the Lord. He believed God's promise to protect him. God always keeps His promises.

Digging Deeper and Prayer

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Pray together as a family - encourage your kids to pray