

Preschool Kid's Parent Guide

September 13, 2020

The Shipwreck

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

Main Point: God protected Paul in the shipwreck.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul was in Roman custody because of unfounded accusations brought against him by the Jews. Paul had stood before rulers in Caesarea and invoked his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar. So Festus the governor arranged for Paul to go to Rome.

Paul got onto a ship going toward Rome. As if Paul's journey to Rome had not already been delayed and complicated enough, the ship was caught up in a terrible storm. Paul had warned the crew not to sail from Crete because they would lose everything and die. But they didn't listen. Paul pointed out the error of their ways, but he still gave them hope. An angel had appeared to Paul. He said Paul would make it to Rome and all of the people with him would survive.

Paul urged everyone on the ship to eat so they would have energy. They planned to run the ship ashore on an island, but the ship got stuck on a sandbar. The waves battered the ship and it broke into pieces; however, all of the people survived and made it safely to shore.

Paul suffered for Christ. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul listed the kinds of things he faced: beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, various dangers, hardship, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, nakedness, and other daily pressures. (See 2 Cor. 11:24-29.) Again and again, Paul saw evidence of God's control over his life and the gospel was advanced.

As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue them from the storm. He also encouraged the sailors to trust God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to tell others this good news. We can encourage others to trust God because we know He is good and in control.

The BIBLE Story

The Shipwreck

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

Paul was a prisoner, and he was going to Rome to see Caesar, the emperor of the Roman Empire. 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.”

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 obeyed Paul.** Now, everyone was really hungry so Paul told them it was time to eat. He 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. **Paul was right; God had kept all of them safe.**

Three months later, Paul got onto another ship and went to Rome. He was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, **Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house.** A soldier stayed with him to guard him, and people came to Paul’s house to visit. **Paul taught people about God’s kingdom and about Jesus, and some of them believed.**

Christ Connection: Paul trusted God’s promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone.

Before the lesson starts...

Activity page

Invite a child to examine the pictures and determine what happened first, next, and last. As children work, discuss whether they have been in the water on a boat.

Say • As Paul was sailing to Rome, something scary happened. Can you tell from the pictures? The other people on the boat were afraid. God sent an angel to tell Paul that everyone on the boat would be safe, and God kept His promise. Listen to hear what happened in today's Bible story.

Session Starter:

Play out riding in a boat

Set up a "boat" by arranging chairs in short rows. Invite the children to sit in the chairs and play out what it would be like to be in a boat during the conditions below. Vary the length and frequency of the conditions to keep your preschooler engaged. Consider allowing your preschooler to suggest conditions.

peaceful waters (sit still)

rough seas (flail limbs about)

choppy waves (sit up tall and slump down repeatedly)

pouring rains (cover heads, hide under chairs)

thunder and lightning (cover ears)

chilly winds (shiver, teeth chatter, rub arms)

SAY • Have you ever been in a boat? What was the weather like? In today's Bible story, Paul was in a boat traveling to Rome when a big storm came. Listen to hear how God kept everyone on the boat safe.

Transition to teach the story

Introduce the Bible story

If you can, show your kids the Mediterranean Sea on a map in your Bible or look it up online. Suggest your children brainstorm different forms of transportation that someone could use to make Paul's journey from Caesarea to Rome.

Say • Paul was going to Rome to talk to Caesar, the emperor of Rome. A ship was the best way to make the trip, but Paul had trouble on the way to Rome.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Say • Today's story is from the New Testament part of the Bible in the Book of Acts. The Bible is the most important book there is because it is God's Word. All the stories we hear in the Bible really happened.

Show the preschool bible story video (which can be found on our website) or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

Say • Paul trusted God's promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone.

Ask the following review questions:

Why was Paul traveling to Rome? (*to talk to Caesar, the emperor of Rome*)

What happened while Paul was sailing to Rome? (*A big storm came with wind and rain.*)

Whom did God send to Paul to tell him everyone on the ship would be safe? (*an angel*)

What happened to Paul when he got to Rome? (*Paul lived in a house with a soldier to guard him.*)

Learn the big picture question

Say • Everywhere Paul went, he wanted people to trust Jesus. We know the good news that Jesus died to keep us safe from sin, and we can tell everyone this good news. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.***

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Philippians 1:21. Read the key passage aloud several times.

Say • Paul's life was not always easy, but Paul was happy to live for Jesus. Paul knew that being with Jesus is far better than anything else. But while he was alive, Paul wanted to help other believers.

Pray with your kids before finishing the lesson. There is also a coloring sheet provided for your kiddos.