

Bible Story: Trouble in Mind (Paul Shipwrecked) • Acts 27:1—28:10

Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.

Key Question: When has something good come out of something bad?

Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift.* Ephesians 2:8 (NirV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

1. Bible Story Extension [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: Activity Page (attached), Saran wrap, individually wrapped candy, mittens, two dice & a Bible

What You Do:

Take the saran wrap and start forming a ball with it. As you wrap it into a ball, add pieces of candy and the pieces of the story (from the Activity Page) to the ball. Keep wrapping until you have a ball the size you want it. Get at least one other person to play the game with you. The more people you have, the more fun it is!

- o One of you starts with the ball and wears the mittens to start unwrapping the ball, while the other person (or person to your right) rolls a pair of dice, trying to roll doubles.
- o The person who is unwrapping keeps going until doubles are rolled.
- o As soon as doubles are rolled, the ball, the mittens, and the dice pass to the next person and the sequence begins again.
- o The person unwrapping the ball keeps any candy that falls out of the plastic wrap along the way.
- o When the ball is completely unwrapped and all of the pieces of the story are out, work together to get the cards in order.
- Look up the story in Acts 27-28. This one has a lot of details!
- Talk about:
 1. Paul had a lot of problematic things happen to him! What were Paul's problems?
 2. What gave Paul the confidence and peace he needed to persevere through his problems?
 3. Does knowing Jesus mean our problems hurt less or go away completely?

It's okay to feel sad, hurt, or mad, etc. Knowing Jesus doesn't mean that life becomes easy. Sometimes it's really HARD! BUT knowing Jesus gives us hope. Knowing Jesus gives us a different perspective, because we know we can trust Him and trust that He's always with us.

2. Verse to Take with You [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

What You Need: Blank paper, marker & a Bible

What You Do:

- On your paper, list out four problems or struggles you currently have or struggles or hardships for kids your age.
- Look up one of the following verses in your Bible and read them.
 - Philippians 4:6-7
 - Proverbs 3:5-6
 - 1 Peter 5:10
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- With your marker, cross out one to two problems on your list.
- Choose at least two Bible verse references to write next to the problems you crossed out.
- Think about these questions. Feel free to discuss them with someone else if you want:
 1. When you cross the problem out and put scripture next to it, is the problem gone?
 2. What's an example of how one of these verses could change how you see one of the problems on your list?
 3. What can you do to make sure you remember some of these verses when you're in a tough situation or facing something hard?

Paul faced many difficult days for teaching boldly about Jesus. He was beaten and made fun of, thrown in jail and run out of town. Then arrested by Roman soldiers after a mob tried to kill him.

It was decided that Paul must travel to Rome to stand trial before the Caesar. He was handed over to a Roman commander for the sea journey.

While they were sailing to his trail, the ship got caught in a bad storm. In the midst of the chaos, the Lord sent an angel to Paul.

The storm continued for 14 days and the ship's crew was so afraid of crashing against the rocks that they lowered the lifeboat, planning to escape and abandon the passengers.

Paul told the ship's crew (because God had told him!) that they must stay with the ship if they wanted to be saved. Paul took bread and thanked God. Then he broke the bread and ate it. Everyone was filled with hope and had some food to eat.

The ship ran aground and nearly broke apart.

Miraculously, everyone made it to shore, just as God had promised.

The people of Malta were unusually kind, building a fire to welcome this large group of wet, stranded visitors. But as Paul tossed the sticks on the fire, a deadly snake slithered out and sunk its teeth into Paul's hand!

Paul simply shook the snake into the fire. When the people saw he wasn't harmed, they decided he was a god! Publius, the chief official, welcomed Paul and others into his home.

Paul discovered that Publius' father was very sick. So he prayed.

Publius' father was made well! All the sick people on the island flocked to see Paul, and they, too, were healed. Paul was so respected on Malta that when it was time to leave, the people of Malta gave them all the supplies they needed.

Paul finally made it to Rome but was put under house arrest. He couldn't leave to go anywhere. For two years, he welcomed anyone who came to see him. He shared with Jews and Gentiles alike the good news of Jesus—just as God had promised he would.

What to Do:

Print and cut apart. Provide one set of cards for each group.

Shipwrecked

July 2020, Week 3, Small Group Preteen
©2020 The reThink Group, Inc. All rights reserved.