

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST

**Week Twenty-Five - Shipwrecked****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

As we are coming to the end of our series in Acts, let us not grow weary in showing Jesus to our kids through this incredible story. Chapter 27 is a fascinating story that seems to center around Paul, but it draws a lot of parallels to the overall Biblical Story and points us to Jesus in deep ways. Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear.

- **Big Idea:** We can trust Jesus even when life around us gets hard.

Starter**Evidence of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

Discussion:

- What is the hardest thing you have ever had to do?
- Why was it so hard to do?

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 27

In chapter 27 we read that Paul was still a prisoner and was slowly making his way to Rome to meet with Ceasar for the crimes he was being accused of. The Romans were transporting Paul and other prisoners by boat. As they traveled up the coast they stopped in different cities to get supplies. One of the guards was nice to Paul and let him visit friends in those different cities so that they could take care of him.

This trip to Rome took many days. Since they were on a sail boat they relied on the winds to take them where they needed to go. There was a danger of the winds taking them far off course or sending them out to the middle of the sea where they would run out of food and supplies. Winter was coming and they had to make a decision whether to keep sailing in dangerous conditions or stay in a town for the winter. Paul knew things were getting bad and if they kept going it would end badly for everyone. He told the captain of the boat, *“Men, I can see that this voyage is headed toward disaster and heavy loss, not only of the cargo and the ship but also of our lives.”* But the owner of the boat and the captain wanted to keep going. So they kept sailing.

As they were sailing to the next town, a fierce wind and storm called the *“northeaster”* rushed down from the north and started pushing their boat in the wrong direction. Instead of trying to push through it and possibly break their boat, they let the wind and storm take them where it wanted. The captain and everyone on the boat were scared the ship would run aground or be destroyed by the storm so they started throwing everything they didn’t need overboard. This storm lasted several days and many of the men started to lose hope that they would ever be saved.

Everyone was hungry because they hadn’t gotten to eat in a long time. Just then, Paul stood up and said this to the whole boat, *“Everyone! I told you so. You should have listened to me when I told you that we should have stayed and that if we kept going it was going to end badly for everyone. Now, don’t worry. Last night I was visited by an angel of the Lord and he told me that nobody is going to die, but only the ship would be destroyed. The messenger told me that it is necessary for me to go to Rome so God is going to take care of me and everyone sailing with me, but we have to run aground on an island first.”*

After some time everything happened just as the angel said it would. The ship ran aground on an island that they would later find out is named Malta. None of the people on the boat died, but the ship was destroyed. Not everyone on the ship could swim so the people that could swim jumped of the boat and swam to shore. The other people had to wait until the boat was destroyed and they floated to shore on broken planks and wooden pieces from the boat. Everything happened just like the angel told Paul in his dream.

Everything around Paul was chaotic. Everything seemed hopeless. Everyone thought they were going to die and drown from the storm. But God told Paul what was going to happen and since Paul knew God would not lie or go back on a promise, Paul knew he could trust God. Everyone else on the boat had to trust God too, but they had to also trust Paul's word. Most, if not everyone else, didn't know or trust Paul's God (YHWH) so they had to trust Paul that he was not crazy and really had a dream that an angel told him what was going to happen.

When life around us seems hopeless, or too hard, or chaotic, we can trust Jesus because we know that He keeps His promises and he promised that when we trust Him He will never leave us. He and his Holy Spirit are always with us even in the midst of hard things.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ Where else in the Bible do we read stories of storms and people having to trust God in the midst of those storms?
- ▶ What are some hard things in your life that you can trust Jesus with?
- ▶ What would happen if you knew the end of the story already? Is it easier to trust the story when you already know what's going to happen?
- ▶ Do we already know the end of the story? *(Yes, so we can trust God with our lives because we know the end is a restored creation)*
- ▶ How is Jesus good news in this story?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything in the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit please work in my heart to love God and love others.

Craft:

- The kids can color the following page

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Listen** rhythm. As you go to school, go to the store with your parent, go to your sports game or after-school activity, or even in your own home, listen and look for the things that people are worshipping. Listen to the words people use. Look for how people act toward one another. Look around your city and neighborhood and see if you can tell what is most important to people, and what they worship.



They had to endure many hardships. Paul was shipwrecked on Malta during one of his missionary journeys.