

ALL OVERBOARD

Paul's Shipwreck
Acts 27:9–44
AD 57

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus guides and protects us.

BIBLE VERSE

When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3

LEARNER GOAL

I know Jesus is with me and has power to help me.

LAW & GOSPEL

When faced with troubles, I doubt God and do not trust His redeeming love. **Christ gives me certain hope and promises to bring me safely to eternal life.**

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

After appealing his right as a Roman citizen, Paul sets sail for Rome under guard of Julius, a centurion. They try to sail along the coast of Crete, but a fierce storm batters the ship for two weeks, pushing them out to sea. An angel tells Paul the ship will be lost but all aboard will survive. Paul encourages everyone to take heart and have some food. Then the crew cuts loose the anchors, and the ship heads toward a beach, where it strikes a reef. All 276 who were aboard arrive safely ashore.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion found in the online digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the articles on pages 1892 and 1895 in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for historical and geographical background.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Dishpan & items that sink & float, including toy boats or plastic tubs
- Tissue paper & lightweight objects & straws
- Pinwheel or paper fan & toy boat
- Pictures of childhood fears
- Bed sheet, Ping-Pong balls or beanbags
- Celery boats or string cheese & round pretzels or LifeSavers candy
- Pool noodle, clear page protectors or white paper, Washi tape & skewers or straws

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



LEADER NOTE

Water play is a good learning tool, but it can be messy. Always supervise children. Remind them only hands and boats go in the water. Place the tub on a large towel. Have additional towels for spills and for drying hands.



LEADER NOTE

Hold up your Bible before you tell the Bible story. Remind the children the Bible is the most important book of all because it is God's true words for us. It tells us everything we need to know about God and His Son, Jesus.



BONUS ACTIVITY

“Act Out the Story” with the children.

LAUNCH

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

WATER Set out a dishpan filled one third with water and items that sink and float, including toy boats or plastic tubs. Let the children predict what will sink or float, then drop items into the water and sail their boats on the water. Say, **What happens when you swish your hands back and forth in the water? Do the boats float better when the water is smooth or swishing around? Today we'll hear about a time Paul was on a boat in a storm.**

EXPLORATION Set out tissue paper, Ping-Pong balls, marbles, crumpled and flat paper, feathers, other lightweight objects, and straws. Have the children blow through a straw to move one item at a time to see how far it will go. Discard straws after each use. Ask, **Which of these things went farthest? Talk about why. Today you will hear about a big ship that needed wind to move it. But when the wind blew very hard, something bad happened.**

JESUS TIME

SING “Father, Hear My Prayer” (digital resource center) or “God, Our Father, Hear Your Children” (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 14)

SAY I'm glad to see you here today! We've been talking about our friend Paul and how he liked to tell about Jesus. Today we'll hear how Jesus was with him and protected him from harm.

PRAY Thank You, God,* for sending Jesus* to be our Savior.* Help us listen* and learn* more about Jesus* and His love.* Amen.*

LEARN

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a pinwheel or paper fan and a toy boat. Ask, **Can you see the wind?** Accept answers. **We can't really see the wind, can we? But we can see what the wind does.** Blow on the pinwheel or fan the children's faces. **Outside, we can feel the wind on our faces when it blows, or we can see the leaves or branches of trees blowing. When the wind blows hard, it can blow over our garbage can or something else outside. When the wind blows very hard, like the winds in a tornado, it can be dangerous!**

In our Bible story today, Paul and some other people are caught in a big wind. But they aren't just walking outside. Show boat. **They are in a big boat in the middle of the sea. How do you think it would feel to be on a boat in the middle of a big storm?** Accept answers. **Yes, scary! The people with Paul were scared too. But Paul wasn't afraid because he knew that God was with him and had power to help him.**

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Show pictures of some common childhood fears (e.g., barking dogs, clowns, storms, snakes, being in dark room at night). Talk about how some children are afraid of these things and maybe they are too. Say, **The sailors in the Bible story were afraid of the storm. We have things we are afraid of too. But the Bible tells us, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in You” (Psalm 56:3). That means we can trust Jesus to be with us and care for us.** Hold up pictures again, and have the children say the verse after each one.

LIVE

DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

SIDE 1 Review the story as the children finish coloring the picture. Say, **In our Bible story, Paul and the people on the boat had some big trouble. They were caught in a storm. The people were afraid they would drown. But Paul wasn't afraid. Paul knew something important. Who was with them? Yes, Jesus!** Give the children a Jesus sticker to add to picture. **Jesus protected them, and they all made it safely to shore.**

SIDE 2 Have the children look at the boy who is afraid. Say, **This boy's name is Jamal. Use your finger or a marker to trace the lines to find out what he is afraid of.** As the children do this, talk about each fear. **Who is with Jamal when he is afraid? Yes, Jesus!** Give the children Jesus stickers to put by each scene.

Have any of you ever been afraid? Let children share. **Who was with you?** Point to a classroom picture of Jesus or cross. **Yes, Jesus! How do we know Jesus is with us?** Hold up your Bible. **Jesus tells us in His Word, the Bible, that He is with us always.** Say Bible Verse. **Have any of you felt all alone or scared or thought nobody loved you?** Accept answers. **Who still loved you and was with you?** Point to Jesus picture or cross. **Yes, Jesus! Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross to pay for our sins and rose again. He makes us part of His family when we are baptized or come to believe in Him through hearing His Word. He tells us in the Bible that He forgives us and is with us always. When we have troubles or are afraid, we can remember that Jesus is with us. He loves us and cares for us our whole life long.** Discuss ways Jesus helps us (e.g., He gives us parents and teachers and others to care for us and protect us; He answers our prayers; He makes us brave through His Word). Give children a Jesus sticker to put on their clothing as a reminder that Jesus is with them and watches over them.

ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

□ MOVE

Recreate the storm using a sheet and some light-weight balls or beanbags.

□ SNACK

Serve celery boats or string cheese and round pretzels or LifeSavers candy.

□ CREATE

Make a boat using pool noodles.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Give the children an opportunity to tell what their favorite part of the story was. Affirm how Jesus was with Paul and the others and kept them safe from harm. Ask, **When you are afraid, what can you remember?**

LEAVE

SING "Jesus, You Are Always Near" (digital resource center) or "I'm with You" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 32)

SAY **Jesus was with Paul in the storm. He protected him and the sailors so they made it safely to shore. How does Jesus protect you? What is the best thing Jesus has saved you from?**

PRAY **Dear Jesus, when we're scared, keep us safe from harm. Help us remember You are with us always and have power to help us. Amen.**



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ leads and guides us through the trials of this life to our eternal home.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Glow-in-the-Dark Crosses" that the children can put in their rooms to remind them that Jesus is with them through the night, watching over them and keeping them safe.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Make a "Storm Bottle" craft. The children can use it to make a storm or make one to use as you tell the story.

ACTIVE LEARNING

□ MOVE

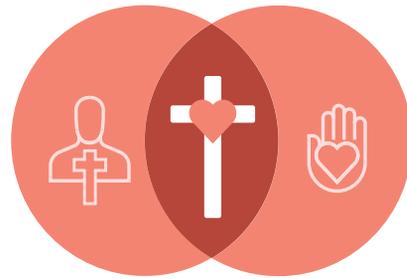
Have the children stand around a sheet and hold the edges. Have them move it up and down. Toss some Ping-Pong balls or beanbags onto it. Move the sheet quickly up and down and then slowly. Talk about how the wind tossed Paul's boat up and down in the water and how the sailors and Paul bobbed up and down in the water as they swam or floated to shore. Ask, **Who was with them? Did God keep His promise to bring them safely to shore? Yes.** Say the Bible Verse.

□ SNACK

Serve celery boats or string cheese and round pretzels or LifeSavers candy. Talk about how the celery sticks or cheese "logs" remind you of the pieces of wood the people held onto to get to shore and the pretzels or candy remind you of life preservers that save people from drowning. Say, **God protected and saved Paul and the people. How does God protect you too?**

□ CREATE

Cut a pool noodle into 5.5-inch sections. Cut each section in half to make two boat bottoms. Slice a little bit off the rounded bottom of the boat to make it flat with more surface area to help it float. Cut a triangular sail from a clear page protector or white construction paper. Decorate with markers and stickers (Sticker Page). Use Washi tape to attach the sail to a bamboo skewer or straw. Insert the point of the skewer into the foam boat or twist the straw into the boat base. Say, **You can float your boat at home and remember how Jesus was with Paul and kept him safe. Jesus is with you when you are afraid too and He protects you.**



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God keeps me safe from harm and danger in this life and the next.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to keep me safe and guide me to my heavenly home.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can identify, using examples in the text, how Jesus guides and protects His people.

YOUTH

I can describe how Jesus guided and protected Paul, and how He guides and protects me.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that Jesus guides and protects me.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know Jesus is with me and has power to help me.

★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

ACT OUT THE STORY

10 minutes

Have the children act out the story as you tell or retell it. This will help them learn and remember the story better. Let them start by sitting on carpet squares or chairs for their boat. Use a blue sheet or blanket to make a "sea" and make it extend from the edge of your boat. As you tell the story, have the children rock back and forth for the waves, make wind noises, use fingers to make rain, pretend to throw things overboard, pray, pretend to eat, and "swim" through the sea, then float back to their chairs.

GLOW-IN-THE DARK CROSS

15 minutes

Cut crosses from purchased craft foam or glue two craft sticks together in a cross shape. Attach ribbon for a hanger. Paint the crosses with glow-in-the-dark stencil paint (available at craft stores or online). Give the children craft beads or stickers to decorate their crosses. Talk about times the children are afraid. Encourage them to hang their cross or a picture of Jesus in their rooms to remind them that Jesus has promised to be with them always. When they are afraid, they can pray to Him.

STORM BOTTLE

10 minutes

Give each child two 1-liter bottles. Remove caps. Fill one bottle half full with water and a few drops of blue food coloring. Add aquarium gravel, pebbles, shells, marbles, or twigs. With adult supervision, use waterproof glue to connect the tops of the bottles together. Let dry completely, then wrap duct tape around the bottle threads. Quickly turn the bottles over so the water is at the top. Swirl to make a whirlpool, tornado, or high waves. Talk about how Jesus is with us in storms and dangers. Add Bible Verse sticker.