

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 understand that Jesus guides and protects 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 Acts 27:9–44 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible (TLSB)*.

MORE TIME Read Acts 27:1–8 and 28:1–10 in *TLSB* with study notes for additional context.

IN DEPTH Read “The Empire in Acts” and “Sea Travel in Paul’s Day” on page 1892 in *TLSB* and see the map on page 1895 for historical and geographical background.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Letter blocks to spell out *hope* and *Jesus*
- Poster putty
- Globe
- Sheet or parachute
- Small boat (or object to represent one)
- Scissors

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- cph.org/digitalcontent



LEADER NOTE

Prepare for this opening by finding letter blocks with the letters for the words *hope* and *Jesus*.



GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 12.



LEADER NOTE

If you have a globe, bring it in to show students where the Mediterranean Sea is and where Malta and Rome are. Remind students that these are real places and that the Bible narrative they will be hearing is a real event, even though it sounds like a made-up story. Or point to the map in the front of the student book to look at all of Paul's travels.



BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the back page for "The Rest of the Story" activity to extend the learning, especially for older students.

LAUNCH

PRAY Dear Lord Jesus, we are so fortunate to come together to hear and learn Your Word. We know that there are places in the world where people don't have this opportunity. Bless our time together. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

SING "Jesus, You Are Always Near"
"I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

SAY Starting with letter blocks *h-o-p-e*, arrange the blocks in a tower to spell the word *hope* vertically. **What word do these letters spell? What does that word mean? Does anyone ever knock down your "hope" tower?** (Knock down the blocks and talk about how we lose hope sometimes. If your students can handle it, let them take turns telling what makes them lose hope, and let them knock down the hope tower. Then talk about what helps us rebuild our hope towers. Arrange the *J-e-s-u-s* letter blocks horizontally, then put the *h-o-p-e* blocks on top of them. Use poster putty to keep them all together.) **When our hope is built on Jesus, our tower can't be knocked down. Paul knew all about having hope in Jesus. His hope in Jesus was never knocked down.**

LEARN

READ "ALL OVERBOARD"

Use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* to read the Bible narrative aloud to your students.

DO SOMETHING

FOR LEARNERS OF ALL AGES Use a sheet or a parachute and place a "ship" on it (toy boat or use whatever you have; even a folded paper boat will work). Inside the ship, place the "cargo," a special written message—the Bible Verse. Let children hold the edges of the sheet and make it go up and down, imitating the sea. They can get wild with it when the storm hits. Even if the ship gets tossed off the sheet/parachute, the message will arrive safely. This is our life in the "ark" of God's Church. Talk about

how the Church is God's ark; reference Noah and God's faithfulness, and how many church sanctuaries are shaped like a boat.

FOR OLDER LEARNERS This is an exciting narrative. Have students work in small groups or all together to write a skit in modern language to portray these true events. If they have time to practice it, talk with your other teachers about having your students perform it next week as a review.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Throughout the Old Testament, we saw God being faithful to His promise to send a Savior. Here we see God continuing to be faithful to His promises. The Lord promises Paul, through the angel, that all lives would be spared. God continues to be faithful to us today. Through Jesus, He will bring His people to heaven and restore all creation.
- God uses these chaotic circumstances to proclaim Christ to many people.
- Paul is a prisoner on this ship, and yet the crew and all who are on the ship with him follow his leadership. This is surely the Holy Spirit at work; Paul could not do this on his own. Even in the midst of this crisis, Paul bears witness to Christ.

LIVE

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for further details about shipwrecks, Malta, and Roman ships, found on the second page of Lesson 12.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose from the following questions. For a few helps, encourage students to look in the *Explore Bible Guidebook*.

- ▶ **In the Bible, storms and raging seas symbolize our lives in a chaotic, sin-filled world. Sin causes us to doubt that God cares about the storms in our lives. Where can we go to be reassured of God’s guiding hand in our lives?** (God’s Word)
- ▶ **Paul was a very calm presence on this boat. How did he manage this?** (God was helping him.) **When we need to be calm, where can we look for help?** (God’s Word and prayer. This question leads nicely into a discussion of this lesson’s Bible Verse.)
- ▶ **Look up 2 Corinthians 1:7–9 and read what Paul has to say about staying strong. Paul showed great strength in many situations, but he knew it wasn’t his own strength that mattered. Who does Paul point to in these verses as the source of his, and our, strength? What comfort do you find in this?**

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

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

KEY DISCUSSION POINT

- This is a wonderful Scripture verse for students and adults alike to commit to memory. Have students make up actions or use American Sign Language to help them internalize this very important message.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Ask students to tell you what they would have told people when they got home if they had been a passenger on Paul’s ship.

LEAVE

SAY Jesus guides and protects us. The events in our lives may not be as exciting as Paul’s shipwreck, but God’s care for us is just as reliable.

SING The Doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
“The Lord’s Prayer”
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

PRAY Dear God, in all of Paul’s troubles, You were with him and protected him. You continue to protect us today. You took care of our biggest trouble by sending Your only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and pay for our sins. Now we know that we will be safe in Your care for eternity. Thank You for loving us and keeping Your promises. Amen.



DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning and connect this narrative to students’ lives by printing the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



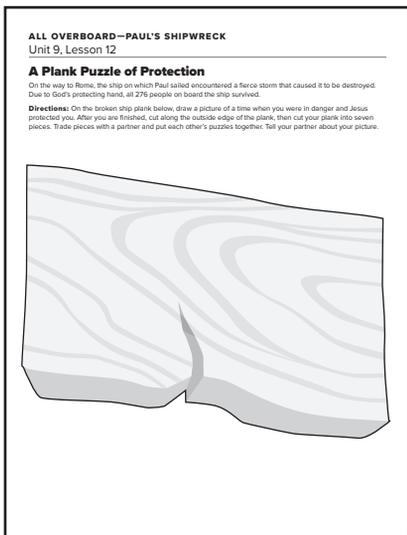
CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus leads us and guides us through difficult times through His Word.

DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page found in the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

After the students have drawn their picture on the plank, provide scissors so they can cut the plank off the page. Direct them to cut their plank into seven puzzle pieces. Help each student find a partner. Have partners trade puzzles and put them together. As they do so, encourage each person to tell about the time of Jesus' protection that the puzzle illustrates.



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

BOAT SNACKS

5–10 minutes

Check online for examples of boat-shaped snacks. Use sliced apples or bananas for the boat and pretzel sticks with fruit leather or sliced cheese for the sail. You could add teddy bear-shaped cookies for people. As you make the snacks with the students, have them reenact the narrative using their snack on a blue paper plate.

PAUL'S ADVENTURE BOOK

Times may vary

Paul's life is full of amazing true adventures, all with the purpose of proclaiming Christ. As a review of the lessons in this unit about Paul, as well as other aspects of Paul's life that students know or can find, write and illustrate a picture book about Paul's many adventures. Have students work in pairs on different pages and illustrations.

THE REST OF THE STORY

Times may vary

For older students who may be interested in what happened to Paul and his shipmates after they landed on Malta, read **Acts 28:1–10**. This includes more adventures for Paul, including an encounter with a poisonous snake. Your students could add this section to the skit they have already written, and if time allows, act it all out for younger groups.