

# 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 can describe how Jesus guided and protected Paul, and how He 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*.

**MORE TIME** Read “Apologetics Helps” on the back page in preparation for the “Live” section.

**IN DEPTH** Read Acts 27:1–8 and 28:1–10 with study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible* for additional context.

## SUPPLIES

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Half-sheets of paper
- Whiteboard or large sheet of paper
- Dry-erase marker or marker
- Slips of paper (optional)

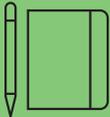
### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Student copies of *Defend Journal*
- Bibles
- Pens
- Shareable images from digital resource center
- Supplies for bonus activities
- [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



### LEADER NOTE

If you're short on time, ask youth to describe the craziest trip they've ever been on or would like to go on.



### DEFEND JOURNAL

Hand out journals and turn to Lesson 12.



### LEADER NOTE

You may want to share information about sea travel in Paul's day from the "Defend the Faith" section on the back page of this leaflet.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Hear the rest of the story with "The Island of Malta."

# LAUNCH

## WALK-IN QUESTION

Have you ever been on a guided tour? What was it like?

## EXTREME TOUR

Hand each person or pair a half-sheet of paper. Give them five minutes to create a flyer for the most extreme or ultimate trip they can imagine. Share the flyers.

**SAY** There are some amazing places we could go, and some places we wouldn't want to go. Today, we'll hear about Paul's extreme sea trip.

**PRAY** Heavenly Father, thank You for being with us no matter where we go. Help us to always trust in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# LEARN

## READ "THE BIG PICTURE" AND TALK IT OUT

► Put yourself in the sandals of one of the passengers on board the ship. What are your thoughts and emotions?

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Let youth share their thoughts—share yours as well.

## LEARN ABOUT "ALL OVERBOARD"

Read **Acts 27:1-8** to hear the beginning of Paul's journey to Rome. Ask youth to turn to the back of the *Defend Journal* and trace the route of the voyage to Rome from Sidon to Fair Havens (off of Crete) to Malta, where Paul was shipwrecked.

Read **Acts 27:9-20** or ask volunteers to read as others follow along.

► Describe the events that led the passengers of the ship to lose hope.

- The time of year made the journey risky to begin with, and the sailing was slow.
- A "tempestuous wind" blew the ship off course, and the sailors had to throw the cargo overboard.
- The ship was violently storm-tossed. They didn't see the sun or stars for days.

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 27:21-26**.

► Summarize Paul's words of encouragement to the other passengers.

- "Take heart! An angel of God told me not to be afraid—no one will die."
- Why was Paul so certain that they would live through the storm?
- Paul trusted in God to guide and protect him. God would fulfill His promise to save.

Read **Acts 27:27-38**.

► Why do you think the centurion, soldiers, and crew listened to Paul?

- Paul demonstrated leadership. God kept them safe, as Paul had said He would.

Ask a volunteer to read **Acts 27:39-44**.

► What does this narrative tell us about God and how He works?

- Allow youth to share their thoughts.
- God will achieve His purpose; He guides us and protects us.
- God works faith and trust in our hearts as we hear and believe His Word.

# LIVE

## DISCUSS “MY GUIDE”

Ask youth to gather together around the whiteboard or a large sheet of paper and make a list of all the different types of guides that they can think of (e.g., tour guide, mountain guide, wilderness guide, safari guide, guidance counselor, guide dog). What can each of these guides do for the people they guide? What can't they do for them? Talk about the question below, using the discussion points and “Apologetics Helps” on the back page for support.

► **Who should I trust to guide me?**

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- A guide is a person who leads others through unfamiliar locations. A guide can also be a person who leads others to more abstract goals, such as knowledge or wisdom.
- Talk about who leads us through life. Parents, coaches, teachers, and ministry leaders may all be good guides, but there is an even better guide to follow.
- God is the best guide. He always has our best interest at heart. He knows what we need to grow in faith and to do His will.
- **Proverbs 3:5–6:** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.
- **John 16:13:** [Jesus said,] When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.
- **Psalms 32:8:** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- **Isaiah 58:11:** And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

### CONSIDER “TAKE HEART”

To “take heart” means to be encouraged or comforted. Paul told his companions to take heart because God had told him that no one would perish in the shipwreck. Jesus told His disciples, “I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But *take heart*; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, emphasis added).

► **Think of someone who could use encouragement or comfort. How can you share the heart of Jesus with them this week?**

### CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Check for understanding by asking youth to turn to a partner and share how God has guided or protected him or her this past week.

# LEAVE

Read the Bible Verse, written in the *Defend Journal*:

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

Ask for prayer requests. Offer to pray, or invite a student to pray for everyone.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus leads and guides His people through the trials of this life and will one day bring us to our eternal home.



### LEADER NOTE

Write the Bible references in the discussion points on the board or on slips of paper. You can have youth look them up and read them, or you can read them to the group.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Help youth show a heart for those who are less fortunate with “Help for the Hopeless.”



### SHAREABLE DOWNLOAD

Connect with youth before and after the lesson by using the shareable images from the digital resource center.

# APOLOGETICS HELPS

## DEFEND THE FAITH

Travel on the Mediterranean Sea in Paul's day was dependent on the seasons. March–May was risky, June–early September was usually safe, late September–early November was risky, and late November–early March was dangerous, with many disasters. Paul's journey to Rome likely occurred in September or October, during a risky season. Paul traveled on two Alexandrian grain ships. These grain ships could be as large as 180 feet long, 45 feet wide, and 40 feet deep and could hold hundreds of passengers. The cargo could include corn, wheat, and barley, loaded in bulk. This loose grain could shift around and could even swell if wet, throwing the ship out of balance. (TLSB, p. 1892)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ► Why didn't God just stop the storm?

Devastating storms and natural disasters happen because we live in a world affected by sin. God has the power to stop storms, as Jesus did several times when He lived on this earth. Why doesn't God always prevent natural disasters? We don't have the answer, but we do know that God can and does work through trials such as natural disasters to help us to grow in our trust and faith in Him and in His guidance and protection.

### ► How can I encourage others to trust God?

One of the most effective ways to encourage others to trust God is to let them see your trust in God for all things, especially in times of trouble. You can also share stories of God's faithfulness to you and ask them to think of times when they have seen God working in their lives. Prayer and reading Bible verses that show how God cares for us are other ways to grow in faith and trust in our God, who is always faithful.



## 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

### THE ISLAND OF MALTA

5–10 minutes

Find out the rest of the story of Paul's shipwreck by reading Acts 28:1–10. Ask youth to list the ways God showed His love and faithfulness to Paul and the others on the Island of Malta.

### FIRST-CENTURY SAILING

10–15 minutes

Look online to find pictures and information about first-century sailing and cargo ships. Compare them with sailing and cargo ships today. Cargo ships often also carried passengers. Ask youth what they would have thought about sailing on a cargo ship in Paul's day.

### HELP FOR THE HOPELESS

15–20 minutes

There are many groups of people in the world today who feel helpless and hopeless because of a lack of food, medicine, clothing, shelter, or emotional support. Find a local organization that helps people in such situations and find out how your group can help.