

Pre k & Kindergarten

Paul Shares the Good News in a Stormy Sea

Bible Point: God wants us to share the good news about Jesus!

Bible Verse

“Believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31a).

Prayer

- Read Jeremiah 29:11-13.
- How does knowing that God has plans for your life help you during times of crisis?
- Pray: Lord, as I trust you in every season of life—in peacetime, in a storm, and in every time in between—help me communicate that confidence to my family.

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: *Bible* OPTIONAL: *fans, butter, bread, plastic knives*

Hold up the Bible and say: Today our Bible story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Read: Acts 27:13-44 Say: This picture tells about our story for today. You can help tell the story by acting it out with me.



Read the following story:

Paul told people everywhere the good news about Jesus. Lots of people listened and believed, but some people didn't believe. They didn't like hearing about Jesus. So they got Paul in trouble! They accused him of taking a stranger into the Temple and making it dirty. That was a very serious crime! If Paul were found guilty, he could be put to death! So Paul decided to go to the highest judge of all—Caesar! But to get to Rome, where Caesar lived, Paul had to take a long journey on a ship.

So Paul boarded a ship with many other prisoners. Shortly after the ship left, a terrible, terrible storm struck! Let's use the fans to make a windy storm. **Pause.** The boat shot up on the crest of one wave and crashed down to the bottom of the next wave. As the boat pitched through the stormy sea, the prisoners rolled from one side of the boat to the other. Let's roll from side to side, too. **Pause.** The sailors were so afraid they tied ropes around the ship to keep it from breaking apart. The storm continued for days and days! To see what it might have felt like, stand up, close your eyes, and spin around for a minute. Then lie down and listen while I make some storm noises.

Say: During the storm, an angel came to Paul and told him that everyone would make it to land safely. So Paul told everyone that they didn't need to be afraid. He trusted that God would keep them all safe.

Fourteen days after the storm started, the sailors became even more frightened. They decided to try to escape in the lifeboat and leave the prisoners to die when the ship sank. But Paul told them not to escape—and the men obeyed! Then Paul told everyone to have something to eat so they could stay alive. He took some bread, thanked God for it, and then everyone ate. Let's enjoy our bread, too.

Give each child a slice of bread, allow children to spread the fresh butter on the slice, and say a quick prayer of thanks for the bread. While they're eating, continue: Soon the sailors saw land! Everyone got excited, hoping they'd be safe and dry. But the ship got stuck on a sandbar and couldn't make it to the land. So the prisoners, sailors, and guards swam to the island or floated there on pieces of wood. Just as the angel had said, they all made it safely.

Ask: • How do you think the people on the ship felt during the storm? (Scared; seasick.)

• How did God keep Paul safe? (He led them to land; he sent an angel; he made sure the boat didn't crash.)

• What was the good news that Paul told the men during the storm? (God would keep them from being hurt; they would make it to land and not die.)

• Do you think the storm got in the way of Paul telling the good news about Jesus? Explain. (No, because he told the men on the ship; yes, because it made it hard to get to the place he wanted to go.)

Say: The storm got in Paul's way, but it didn't stop him from telling the good news. God wants us to share the good news about Jesus even when things get in our way. Do you remember what the good news is? Let's review our Bible verse for today, which also comes from Acts, in 16:31a: "Believe in the Lord Jesus." The good news is Jesus! If we are sorry for our sins and believe in Jesus, God will protect us and help us get through whatever obstacles we have to overcome, and we will live forever with him someday.

Activity: Stormy Weather

SUPPLIES: *toy boat, drinking straws, dishpan, water, liquid soap*

Fill a dishpan three-quarters full of water. Add a few drops of liquid soap, and then place a small toy boat in the water. Show children how to place one end of their drinking straws in the water and blow to make waves. Children can also blow on the boat and make storm sounds as they play. Explain that even in the middle of a storm, Paul continued to tell the good news about Jesus.

Craft: Make a boat.

Supplies: Paper plate, glue, popsicle stick

Cut the plat in half. Glue the lightening bolts and dark clouds to one side of the plate. On the other side, glue the angel and verse, decorate. Attach the sail and popsicle stick handle.