

Paul at Sea

**Bible verses:**

Acts 27:13-44

The storm

**Aim:**

To explore what it means to have faith in God, even in difficult times

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we join Paul and other prisoners heading to Italy on a boat.

The journey was long and dangerous, but Paul knew that God was with everyone on board. Paul could have doubted God, but instead he had faith that everything would be OK. We can learn from Paul how to trust in God even when life is difficult.

Paul could have been afraid and doubted that God would protect him. However, he showed faithfulness by still believing even during a really difficult time.

Each child will need:

- A clean jam jar with lid, washing-up liquid, water, food colouring and glitter
- A sticky label and pens (optional)
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A flip chart and pens
- To recall when you trusted in God during a difficult period (optional) - see *Tell it*
- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*



Start it

Ask the children what kind of weather you would see in a storm and jot down their ideas on a flip chart, eg rain, hail, snow, lightning, strong winds, tornadoes etc. As a group choose a few examples and create an action to go with each one. Ask the children to move around the room.

When you call out one of the types of weather, the children need to complete the action.

At the end of the game, sit the children down and discuss the following questions:

- Have you ever been in a storm?
- If so, how did it feel?



Sing it

Share this month's memory verse together.

Memory verse

**'The Lord is my strength and shield.
I trust him, and he helps me.
I am very happy.
And I praise him with my song.'**

(Psalm 28:7 *ICB*)

Say:

In our story today Paul continued to stand strong and trust in God even when things got really scary. Our song for today reminds us that God can be trusted no matter what storm we face.

Song

'Stand strong' (Kingdom Rock VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:52)



Tell it

Say:

Our story for today is like something out of an adventure book. Watch the clip to discover what happens.

Video

God's Story: Paul's shipwreck by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:24)

Watch 0.00-2:51 'But the officer Julius wanted to spare Paul's life, so Julius convinced the soldiers to let the prisoners live.'

Say:

Paul continued to upset people by telling them about Jesus and this got him into trouble. That's how he ended up on a boat as a prisoner, guarded by Roman soldiers. He warned the sailors that it wasn't safe to travel, but they didn't listen to him.



Read:

'Then a good wind began to blow from the south. The men on the ship thought, "This is the wind we wanted, and now we have it!" So they pulled up the anchor. We sailed very close to the island of Crete. But then a very strong wind named the "northeaster" came from the island. This wind took the ship and carried it away. The ship could not sail against it. So we stopped trying and let the wind blow us. We went below a small island named Cauda. Then we were able to bring in the lifeboat, but it was very hard to do. After the men took the lifeboat in, they tied ropes around the ship to hold it together. The men were afraid that the ship would hit the sandbanks of Syrtis. So they lowered the sail and let the wind carry the ship. The next day the storm was blowing us so hard that the men threw out some of the cargo. A day later they threw out the ship's equipment. For many days we could not see the sun or the stars. The storm was very bad. We lost all hope of staying alive - we thought we would die.'

(Acts 27:13-20 ICB)

Ask:

- How do you think the passengers on the boat were feeling at this point in the story?
- Have you ever made a decision that went wrong and then had someone say, 'I told you so'? What did it feel like?

Say:

In the middle of the storm Paul said to the men on the boat, 'I told you not to leave Crete. You should have listened to me. Then you would not have all this trouble and loss.' (Acts 27:21 ICB)

Ask:

How would you have felt if you were one of the sailors in the middle of a storm listening to Paul?

Say:

Happily, Paul went on to reassure them that they would survive.

Read:

'But now I tell you to cheer up. None of you will die! But the ship will be lost. Last night an angel from God came to me. This is the God I worship. I am his. God's angel said, "Paul, do not be afraid! You must stand before Caesar. And God has given you this promise: He will save the lives of all those men sailing with you." So men, be cheerful! I trust in God. Everything will happen as his angel told me. But we will go aground on an island.'

(Acts 27:22-26 ICB)

Say:

Paul told the men that God had everything under control and that they would be OK. They needed to have faith in God.

Ask:

- What does it mean to 'have faith' in God?

– How easy do you find it to have faith in God?

Say:

Sometimes, when we go through difficult things in life, we might call this a ‘storm’.

If appropriate, take a moment to share with the children a time when you have trusted in God during a storm in your life. How did God show his faithfulness to you?

Say:

Paul knew he could trust God in the storm because he knew God and had seen God do amazing things before. He had practised staying close to God in good times and bad times.

Ask:

What can we do to stay close to God?

Say:

The men on the boat lost a lot during the storm, and even though they survived, it was very challenging. Throughout this experience, Paul encouraged them to trust in God.

Read:

‘When daylight came, the sailors saw land. They did not know what land it was, but they saw a bay with a beach. They wanted to sail the ship to the beach, if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.

The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. But Julius, the officer, wanted to let Paul live. He did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The rest used wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people made it safely to land.’

(Acts 27: 39–44 ICB)

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

Ask:

In what way was God faithful to Paul?

Say:

Even though the boat was broken apart, every person was saved – just as God had promised.

If the children in your group would like to know what happened to Paul when he landed on the island, then you can watch the rest of the clip together.

Watch 2:52 to end.

Action it

Explain that the children are going to create their own storm in a jar. They can take the jar home to remind them that God is with them in every storm they face.

The clip below can be used with the children or just for the leader. As well as creating their own storm in a jar, the children could decorate a sticky label to put on the lid of the jar saying, 'I put my trust in God.'

Video

Tornado in a jar by SODA POP science (5:40)

Watch 0:00-2:27 'This circular motion is called a vortex.'

Say:

You can use your storm jar as part of your prayer time this week. Everything is explained on your *Explore It Ideas* handout.

Pray it

Say:

Many people worldwide are impacted by physical storms that devastate where they live. Others face situations that could be described as a storm in their life. For our prayer time today, we will think of people who need help and support while dealing with a frightening storm. This could be an actual storm with rain and thunderclouds or a challenging life experience.

This activity continues from last week's Pray It theme, where the children were encouraged to pray for others. This week the children are encouraged to pray for people who face storms in their lives, whatever form that storm may take. Spend time jotting down ideas for prayer with the children. Invite the children to spin their tornado in a jar as they choose a prayer topic to share out loud. Bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Paul at Sea

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Acts 27:13-44



Aim:
To explore what it means to have faith in God, even in difficult times



Today's fruit:
Faithfulness



Pray

During our session this week we used our tornado in a jar to pray for people facing storms in their lives. Each day, take a moment to spin your jar and pray for someone who is facing a challenging situation.



Discover

Which places in the world are recovering from a storm? Research where they are with the people at home and spend time praying for those involved.



Song for the week

'Stand strong' (Kingdom Rock VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids



Memory verse

'The Lord is my strength and shield.
I trust him, and he helps me.
I am very happy.
And I praise him with my song.'
(Psalm 28:7 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

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Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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Memory verse

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Start it

Paul was taken as a prisoner on a boat to Italy. The boat hit a storm which nearly destroyed everyone on board. God promised to protect everyone on the boat, and they were kept safe. God showed his faithfulness when he kept his promise to Paul.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Acts 27:13-44 or watch the following clip.

God's Story: Paul's shipwreck by Crossroads Kids' Club (4:24)

Watch 0.00-2:41 'All 276 people survived, just as God had promised.'

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why was Paul taken on the boat to Italy?

- How did the Roman soldier Julius show kindness to Paul?
- What happened once the boat was out on the water?
- What did God promise to Paul?
- How did God keep his promise?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Create your own picture of a stormy sea.
- Think of some different kinds of stormy weather, like rain or strong winds. Think of an action to go with each kind of weather and show it to the rest of the group.
- Gather your friends together and get on an imaginary boat. Act out what would happen in the middle of a storm.
- Imagine you are one of the sailors who has safely landed on the beach. What would you say to Paul?