



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 57

Safe on an Island

Take Home Point: *Follow God and expect him to do amazing things. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 28:1-10, Mark 16:15-20

Key Verses: Mark 16:15&17, "Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation...and these signs will accompany those who believe..." (amazing things) (N/V)

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Paul's rescue on the island of Malta and how God did amazing things through him.
- When they follow Jesus they can expect him to do amazing things for them as well.
- The most amazing thing God has done is to rescue them from the "snake bite" of Satan through the power of the cross.
- All believers are on a journey to follow God and to tell others about the Good News of Jesus.




We will help kids feel:

- Courage to follow Jesus.
- Excited to look for ways that God will do amazing things in their lives.

We will help kids do:

- Share about a favorite destination that they would like to travel to someday.
- Think about how God is leading them on a special journey throughout their lives.
- Tell about amazing things they see God doing for them and others. Make a craft that reminds them that they can **follow God and expect him to do amazing things.*

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids share stories of a vacation they would like to go on.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group 	4 7 8 9	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Amazing Experience”—Gordy shares his amazing experience of attacking a dinosaur. Video: <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i> —Acts 28:1-10 Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Amazing Experience”—Gordy remembers another snake in the Bible that tempted Adam and Eve. God cured that snakebite with Jesus’ death on the cross to take away the punishment of our sin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • rain gear such as a raincoat, umbrella, boots, and goggles. • squirt gun or spray bottle • video, <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International cued to Acts 28:1-10—order from http://www.gocccc.com/vi/biacdvd1of.html
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a craft that reminds them of the snake in today’s Bible event and also reminds them of the path on which God is leading them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copy of appendix (p. 11) for each kid • scissors

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Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

This morning let's use our imagination and tell some stories. I would like you to tell us about a trip that you would like to take with your family. Where would you like to go and what would you like to do?

Let kids share. Then say:

Some of those are amazing trips. Now, I want to tell you about a trip that the Smith family had.

Once upon a time, there was the Smith family---Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, Johnnie Smith and Susie Smith. One year, Mr. Smith took his family with him on a business trip to Phoenix, Arizona.

They decided to drive to Arizona so they could see the scenery along the way. As they came close to Phoenix, they drove around a curve and another car was in their lane. They hit this oncoming car and had a terrible car wreck. Both cars were totally demolished. But, miraculously no one was hurt in either car.

They all stood around trying to decide what they should do next. This was not a very busy road, so help would not arrive for quite some time. As they looked around they noticed a house not too far away and decided to walk to it.

While they were walking in the ditch, a rattlesnake bit Mr. Smith. They were all frightened, but Mr. Smith shook the snake off his leg and continued walking. It didn't seem to bother him at all. The family kept thinking their dad would soon get sick, but he didn't.

Finally, they reached the house. Mr. Smith was okay. There wasn't even a mark where the snake had bit him. They knocked on the door and a man opened it. The Smith family explained what they had just been through. They told this man about the accident and how no one was hurt. Then they told about the snakebite and Mr. Smith not getting sick.

The man in the house was amazed! He then told the Smith family about his very sick grandfather in the back bedroom. Mr. Smith went to visit the sick old man. He touched the man and prayed for him. Guess what happened? The grandfather got better. Can you believe it?!

After reading the story, say:

Think of all the amazing things that happened to the Smith family on their way to Phoenix. Do you think this is a true story or not? How many say true? How many think the story is false?

You are all correct. This story is not true because it didn't happen to the Smith family on their way to Phoenix. But it did happen to Paul and his friends when they traveled to Rome about 2000 years ago.

This shows us something very important. God can do amazing things for those people who are on a journey with him. If we **follow God we can expect him to do AMAZING things* for us as well.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy’s Amazing Experience”—Gordy shares his amazing experience of attacking a dinosaur.

Video: *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 28:1-10*

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy’s Amazing Experience”—Gordy remembers another snake in the Bible that tempted Adam and Eve. God cured that snakebite with Jesus’ death on the cross to take away the punishment of our sin.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids to Acts 28:1-10 in their Bibles.

What amazing thing happened to Paul when he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta? *(Acts 28:3-6. A snake bit Paul while he was adding wood to the fire. However, the poisonous bite had no affect on him.)*

How did Paul help Publius, the governor of the island? *(Acts 28:8. The governor's father was sick and Paul placed his hands on the father and prayed. He became well.)*

What other amazing things happened while Paul was still on Malta? *(Acts 28:9. Other sick people on the island went to Paul and were made well.)*

Read Mark 16:15-20.

What kind of miraculous signs did Jesus say would accompany believers who told the Good News of Jesus? *(Mark 17-18. Believers could use the power and authority of Jesus' name to force demons out of people. They could speak new languages. They could pick up snakes and drink deadly poison and it would not hurt them. They could place their hands on the sick and cure them.)*

After Jesus was taken to heaven, what happened as the disciples spread the Good News? *(Acts 16:20. "The Lord worked with them. He confirmed his word by the miraculous signs that accompanied it.")*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think God did amazing things through Paul and Jesus' disciples as they witnessed about Jesus? *(To show the people that God was with his followers. To increase the faith of believers.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Today's key verse from Mark 16:15 and 17 says, **"Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation...and these signs will accompany those who believe..."** (amazing things) (NIV)

Do you think God still does amazing things today like he did in Paul's day?

When we follow God he does amazing things. What are some amazing things that might happen? *(God answers our prayers for*

healing; people we share the Good News with, receive it and become friends with God; people who are angry or mean when they receive love and understanding might begin to change; people notice something different in your life because you follow God; etc.)

Imagine some things that you could do this coming week that show you are a follower of God. Something for me would be _____. (Put in your own example.)

Let kids share.

Isn't it exciting to think that God leads us all on a special journey in life? Each of our paths are different and unique only to us.

We are going to make a craft that will help remind us to **follow God and expect him to do amazing things.*

Application Activity:

Supplies: finished craft project, appendix page copied on cardstock for each kid, scissors

Show kids an example of the finished craft project. Say:

When we finish our craft, it will look like a path. This reminds us that God is leading each one of us is on a special journey.

But, if you look at it another way it looks like a snake. This reminds us of how Paul was rescued from the snake and how we are also rescued from the snakebite of sin.

What is the most amazing thing that God has done for you and will do for you in the future? *(Jesus died for us and forgives us of our sin. Because of this we will live with him in heaven someday.)*

Have kids cut the circle from the paper. Have them notice that as they cut on the lines while turning the circle around, it says, **Follow God and expect him to do amazing things.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that the most amazing thing he did for us was to send Jesus to take the punishment of our sins for us. Thank him for how he continually works in our lives and still does amazing things for us. Ask for eyes to see God's wonders and faith to trust him as we follow him and tell others about the Good News of Jesus. Praise God for his promises and especially that all believers will be with him someday in that amazing place called heaven.

As kids leave remind them to ****follow God and expect him to do amazing things*** this week.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The presenter in this series is dressed in a raincoat with appropriate rain gear such as, an umbrella, boots and goggles. He/She needs a squirt gun or spray bottle to be ready for the storms of life.

Gordy's Amazing Experience Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Kids, should we call Gordy?

Kids: Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.

Gordy enters.

Gordy: Hey!

Presenter: Hi, Gordy. How did you like the story you heard in small group today?

Gordy: Oh, it was okay.

Presenter: Didn't you think it was AMAZING!

Gordy: Maybe sorta. But, what happened to me on my vacation was *really* amazing.

Presenter: Tell me what happened.

Gordy: Last summer we went on vacation and I got attacked by a dinosaur.

Presenter: A what?!

Gordy: A big green dinosaur.

Presenter: Now, Gordy, where in the world did you find a big green dinosaur?

Gordy: We stopped at this old gas station and then a big green dinosaur came up from around the building. I ran over to it and jumped up on its neck to begin wrestling it. It was Gordy against the dinosaur!

Presenter: Hold on, Gordy. Was it really a dinosaur?

Gordy: It was! It was big and green. It was kind of in the playground area.

Presenter: Oh, I get it! It wasn't a live dinosaur. It was part of a playground.

Gordy: Not exactly. It was just a statue all by itself. But, it was giving me a nasty look so I had to attack it!

Presenter: Now, you said your adventure was amazing. Tell me what was so amazing about attacking a dinosaur statue?

Gordy: I broke its neck! It was amazing. That will teach him to look at me that way.

Presenter: I don't know if that is amazing.

Gordy: It is if you had a dinosaur neck fall on you. I could have been killed.

Presenter: That does sound kind of dangerous. I bet you weren't suppose to climb on that statue. But, it is amazing that you weren't hurt. You need to be more careful and respect other people's property.

This reminds me of something very important.

Gordy: What's that?

Presenter: Follow God. When you **follow God you can expect him to do amazing things.*

Gordy: Like breaking the necks of dinosaur s?

Presenter: Even better than that. Let's watch today's Bible event. Paul follows God and God did amazing things for him. We can expect God to do amazing things for us as well.

Gordy exits.

Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 28:1-10.*

Video Review:

Let's see how good you paid attention to today's video. I need some volunteers to come forward and answer some questions correctly.

Choose three kids to come forward. Each will answer one question.

If you answer the question correctly, you get to squirt me. But, if you are wrong, I get to squirt you. Are you ready?

Introduce each child before you ask the question.

Question 1: What was the name of the island on which Paul and all the ship members were shipwrecked? (*Malta*)

If the volunteer answers incorrectly squirt the volunteer. If he/she gets it right they get to squirt you.

Question 2: What two miraculous events happened through Paul when he arrived on the island of Malta? (*A snake bit him and he was not harmed. He prayed and a sick man was healed.*)

Squirt the volunteer if they answered the question incorrectly or if answered correctly, let him/her squirt you.

Question #3: Put on your thinking cap for this next one. It is a REALLY hard question! Are you ready? I saw a boatload of people stranded on an island. Yet on the island there wasn't a single person. Why? (*Everyone on the island was married.*)

Squirt the volunteer if they answered the question incorrectly or if answered correctly let him/her squirt you.

Gordy's Amazing Experience

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Guess what? I knew that riddle.

Presenter: I am very proud of you, Gordy. Listen, I have one more that I don't know if you will be able to answer.

Gordy: What?

Presenter: Can you remember anywhere else in the Bible that a snake caused some BIG problems for people?

Gordy: Let me think...there must have been a snake on the ark, but I don't think the Bible said anything about what he did. Oh, there was the fried snake that we saw today. We already used that one though. Let me see... Can I ask one of my friends in the audience to help me?

Presenter: Okay, Gordy, you can have someone help you.

Gordy: (*Talking to the audience*) Who remembers another snake mentioned in the Bible? (*Gordy chooses someone to answer, "with Adam and Eve" or "in the Garden of Eden."*)

Thanks! It was that snake with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Presenter: You are right. That was Satan disguised as a snake that tempted Adam and Eve to eat fruit that God commanded them not to eat. They sinned because they did *not* follow God. This sin was like a snakebite, because ever since, people have sin in their lives and have to eventually die instead of living forever on earth.

Gordy: It's too bad someone didn't throw that snake into the fire.

Presenter: Guess what, Gordy? Someone did!

Gordy: What?

Presenter: Yes, Jesus defeated the power of that snake because he defeated the power of Satan. Do you know how he did that?

Gordy: Oh, I bet it was when Jesus gave his life for us on the cross. That is how he took the consequences of our sin away. He took the punishment that we deserve for our sin.

Presenter: That's it! Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have the cure to the snakebite. So now when we **follow God he does amazing things*. The most amazing is freeing us from our sin and letting us live for him.

Gordy: That is really cool! Just think, there was a snake way back with Adam and Eve and there was a snake with Paul and they both got fried!

Presenter: Amazing isn't it! Gordy, would you please close us with prayer?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you for the amazing things you did for Paul and how you fried that snake. Would you please do amazing things for us, too? Help us to follow you. Thank you for being in our lives. Thank you for doing the amazing thing of loving us so much you died on the cross and rising again on the third day. You took away our sin. In Jesus' name, Amen.

