



Date: _____
Series: God in the Storms of Life
Spring Year 4, Lesson 56

Paul is Shipwrecked

Take Home Point: *God gives courage to face the storms of life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 27

Key Verse: Isaiah 43:1b-2a, "Do not be afraid because I have reclaimed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you go through the sea, I am with you."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Paul's shipwreck and how he had courage because of his trust in God.
- God will give them courage also as they face the storms of life.
- Their trust should be in God and not in any human's ability to fix difficult circumstances.




We will help kids feel:

- Courage to trust God and his purposes for us.
- Confidence that they can trust him in the storms of life.

We will help kids do:

- Tell about an event in their lives that was really scary.
- Investigate the Bible and talk about how Paul's courage was founded on his trust that God had a purpose for him.
- Make a boat that reminds them to trust God even when they face scary times.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The kids discuss times they felt afraid. While doing this, they throw pennies unto a paper boat floating on water to see how long it takes for the boat to sink.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three pennies per child • paper boat (see <i>Appendix A p. 12-15</i>) • bowl • water
Large Group 	3 8 10 11	Overview Puppet presentation: “God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life”—Gordy tells about a time God helped him through a “storm” in his life. Video: <i>Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 27</i> Puppet Conclusion: “God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life”—Gordy learns to trust God in everything... and has life forever with Jesus.	<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—order from http://www.gocccc.com/vibiacdvd1of.html • pennies taped to Gordy’s hand and the puppet stage shelf
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a paper boat that reminds them of the promise that <i>*God gives courage to face the storms of life.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two to four copies of <i>Appendix B (p. 16)</i> for each child

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.

Supplies: paper to make a boat (see Appendix A), a bowl that is big enough for the paper boat to float in, water, three pennies per child

In advance, make a paper boat using the directions on the appendix page. Use a pin and poke three small holes in the bottom of the boat. This will allow the boat to sink faster in the water. Fill the bowl half full of water.

After kids have arrived, give each of them three pennies. Explain that each time they share, they can toss one of their pennies into the boat to see how long the boat stays afloat.

Ask the following:

Who can tell us about a time that you felt afraid?

As a child answers, let him/her toss a penny onto the boat. Then have someone offer advice as to what to do in that situation. Let him/her also toss a penny onto the boat. Continue having kids share a scary time and others giving advice on what to do while tossing pennies onto the boat.

When the boat has sunk, say:

Today we will see how Paul was in a very scary situation, but God gave him the courage to face the storm. *God also gives us the courage to face the storms of life.

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: “God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life”—Gordy tells about a time God helped him through a “storm” in his life.

Video: *Visual Bible: Acts—Acts 27*

Puppet Conclusion: “God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life”—Gordy learns to trust God in everything... and has life forever with Jesus.

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? / Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to Acts 27 in their Bibles.

OPTION: While reading Acts 27, have kids trace the route of the travels on a Bible map of Paul's journey through verse 13. Then have kids close their eyes as you continue reading the rest of the chapter and they imagine the scene as it unfolds.

The following review questions are geared more for older students to go deeper. Since the application activity is somewhat challenging, have younger kids skip the observation and interpretation questions and go to the application questions.

What was the name of the officer that was in charge of Paul and other prisoners as they traveled to Italy to appear before the emperor? (Acts 27:1. Julius.)

What evidence can you find in this passage that suggests Julius favored Paul? (Acts 27:3, 43. Julius treated Paul kindly and allowed him to visit his friends and receive care he needed in Sidon. After the shipwreck and the soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to keep them from escaping, Julius stopped the soldiers to save Paul.)

In Acts 27:10, Paul advised that the ship would meet disaster if it continued to sail. Why didn't the officer listen to him? (Acts 27:11. He was persuaded by what the pilot and the owner of the ship said and not by what Paul said.)

What words of encouragement did Paul say after several days at sea in the raging storm and the men lost hope of surviving? (Acts 27:21-26. He said that an angel of God had told him that he would appear before the emperor and God would grant safety to everyone sailing with him. However, they would run aground on some island.)

Did the officer and sailors believe him this time? Why? *(Because he was right the last time. Because an angel from God had told him so.)*

What evidence do you see in Acts 27:30-32 that now they did believe Paul? *(Some sailors tried to escape on a lifeboat, but Paul told the soldiers that if the sailors did not stay on the ship, they would have no hope of staying alive. The soldiers then cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away so the sailors could not escape.)*

After 14 days at sea, how did Paul encourage the travelers on the ship? *(Acts 27:33-37. He told them they needed to eat to have strength to survive because “not a hair from anyone’s head would be lost.” He then took some bread, thanked God in front of everyone, broke it, and began to eat.)*

How many people on the ship survived? *(Acts 27:37. All 276 of them.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: two to four copies of Appendix B for each child.

Practice folding the boat in advance, so you know well how to make it and can easily help the kids fold theirs.

Give each child a paper with the take home point printed on it. Use this paper to make the boat.

NOTE: Make sure when folding your boats the promise written on the bottom portion of the paper is face down on the table.

Show kids your boat and explain that you will teach them to also make a boat.

Begin making a new boat. Step by step have the kids follow you as you fold your boat.

After all have completed their boats, continue:

This boat reminds me of today’s Bible event. As you remember Paul was on a journey. Even though he was a prisoner, God told him that he would have the opportunity to tell about Jesus before the emperor. Paul trusted that God would take care of him even when he went through storms.

The ship that Paul was on got into a terrible storm!

Rock your boat as if in a storm.

Paul had shared with the leaders on the boat not to go, but they did not listen. The storm raged on and on. The men on the boat decided to throw everything overboard to lighten the boat.

Tear off the sail (top triangle) of the boat so it is even with the sides of the boat. Have the kids do this also.

They were all ready to die. But Paul said, “Don’t worry. An angel from the God that I serve told me that everyone will survive. But, you all have to listen to me.”

After 14 days they were coming up to a shore. They cut their anchors.

Tear off the right corner (about one inch) of the boat. Have the kids follow what you did.

The boat hit a sandbar and couldn’t be moved. Then the back of the ship was broken to bits by the waves slamming into it.

Tear off the left corner (about one inch) of the boat. The paper boat is now the shape of a rectangle. Have the kids follow what you did.

They lost everything, but everyone survived just as Paul said they would! Even though all they had was the shirt on their back, they remembered this promise....

Open up the paper boat to the half fold. It should look like a shirt with the promise from Isaiah and take home point seen on the center of the shirt.

Isaiah 43:1b-2a, “Do not be afraid because I have reclaimed you. I have called you by name. You are mine. When you go through the sea, I am with you.”

****God gives courage to face the storms of life.***

Just like Paul knew God wanted him to appear before the emperor, God knows the plans and purposes he has for each of our lives. How does knowing God has a purpose for your life give you reassurance in scary times? *(We can trust God’s purposes. He loves us and wants what is best for us.)*

How does the key verse from Isaiah make you feel?

Does God keep his promises? What does he promise in this verse?

How did God keep his promise through Jesus? *(God promised long, long ago to send a savior to save his people from the punishment of their sins. He sent his Son Jesus to die for the sins of all people. Because he*

loved us and kept this promise, we can be assured that he will continue to love us and keep his promises.)

After the closing prayer, give the kids more paper to take home and share the story with their friends and family. Restate the Take Home Point: ***God gives courage to face the storms of life.**

Closing Prayer:

Thank God that he loves us and has a purpose for our lives, just as he had a purpose for Paul's life. Thank him that he loved us enough to send Jesus to die for us. Have kids each pray for a scary situation in their life and for courage to face this situation because God will keep his promises.

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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.

God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life Puppet Presentation

Supplies: Gordy puppet, pennies taped to his hand and on the puppet shelf

Presenter: Boys and girls, shall we welcome Gordy?

Kids call for Gordy: Gordy...Gordy... Gordy...

Gordy enters with a penny taped to his hand and some others on the puppet shelf.

Presenter: Hi, Gordy.

Gordy: Hi, everyone. Look what I have.

Presenter: It looks like some pennies. Oh, my goodness, some of them are wet.

Gordy: Well, I rescued them.

Presenter: You rescued them?

Gordy: Yeah, when the boat sank in small group, someone had to go in after the pennies. I saved every one of them.

Presenter: Does your shepherd know that you have them?

Gordy: Yeah, he said that I could keep them when I told him my story.

Presenter: What was your story?

Gordy: About the time I really got scared.

Presenter: What happened?

Gordy: We were in the swimming pool playing "Treasure Divers." We were diving for gold.

Presenter: Gold?

Gordy: Well, not real gold, just pennies. Someone would throw them into the pool and the rest of us would swim and dive in the water and see who could find the most pennies.

Presenter: That sounds fun.

Gordy: It was fun until I went after one penny that was further out. I think it was where someone moved the bottom.

Presenter: Moved the bottom?

Gordy: Yeah, the bottom of the swimming pool had moved. I was over my head and the water was deep. I was just a first grader then, so I wasn't a very good swimmer.

Presenter: What did you do then?

Gordy: I thought I was going to drown. I saw my whole life flash before my eyes. I knew it was going to be the end. I even prayed to God.

Presenter: What did you say?

Gordy: H-E-L-P!!!

Presenter: Did God answer you?

Gordy: No, but the lifeguard did.

Presenter: But maybe God sent the lifeguard to help you.

Gordy: Maybe so. It was really scary.

Presenter: I'm sure it was.

Gordy: Yeah, and I never did get that penny in the deep end.

Presenter: But you have several now. Gordy, did you know that we all go through times when we are afraid? These are times we call the "storms of life." But God gives us courage.

Gordy: He can even give us lifeguards!

Presenter: You bet, Gordy. That is exactly what happened to the apostle Paul.

Gordy: What? Did he almost drown?

Presenter: He could have, but he knew that God was going to help him. God gave him the courage to face a terrible storm. We can learn that too.
****God gives courage to face the storms of life.***

Let's take a watch the Bible event on video today. It is found in Acts chapter 27.

Kids, be sure to listen carefully. Because we will have some volunteers come onstage afterwards to answer questions.

Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts: Acts 27.*

Video Review:

I know we had some very good listeners during today's video. Who thinks they can answer the questions correctly and would like to volunteer to come forward?

Choose three kids to come forward.

Now, remember as in the past few weeks, if you answer the question correctly, you get to squirt me. But, if you are wrong, I get to squirt you. Are you sure you are ready?

Introduce each child as you let him/her answer one question.

Question 1: Paul was on a ship headed for Rome. The sailing began to get rough because winter was approaching. What city did they want to reach to spend winter? (*Phoenix.*)

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

Question #2: The storm hit and it became so severe that the men onboard started losing hope. Paul advised the men to have courage because of someone who said, "Don't be afraid, Paul! You must present your case to the emperor. God has granted safety to everyone who is sailing with you"? Who spoke those words? (*An angel from God.*)

Squirt the volunteer if the question was answered wrong or if answered correctly, let them squirt you.

Question #3: Now this is the really hard question. You are going to have to think very, very hard. Are you ready? How can you tell an ocean is friendly? (*When it waves a lot.*)

Squirt the volunteer unless he/she answers correctly.

God Helps Gordy Through the Storms of Life

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, what do you think?

Gordy: (*Snickering*) That wasn't a too bad joke you told... waves a lot. I get it.

Presenter: More importantly, Gordy, what do you think you will do when you go through the storms of life?

Gordy: I'll be waving at a lifeguard, I guess.

Presenter: More than that, Gordy. What did you learn?

Gordy: Well, I did learn that Paul knew that God was with him. God had a purpose for him. Paul trusted God and did just what he wanted.

Presenter: Do you think you can trust God when you go through the storms of life?

Gordy: Yeah, but is he going to rescue me every time?

Presenter: He may rescue you in different ways. But one thing you can trust him for is that no matter what happens, even if you died, God's plan is to rescue you, because he gave you his Son Jesus. Jesus gave his life for you and you can trust him... for life with him now and life with him forever. That's the biggest rescue of all.

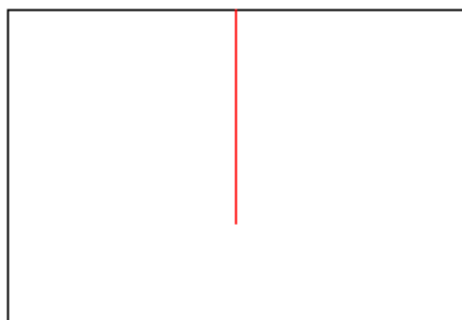
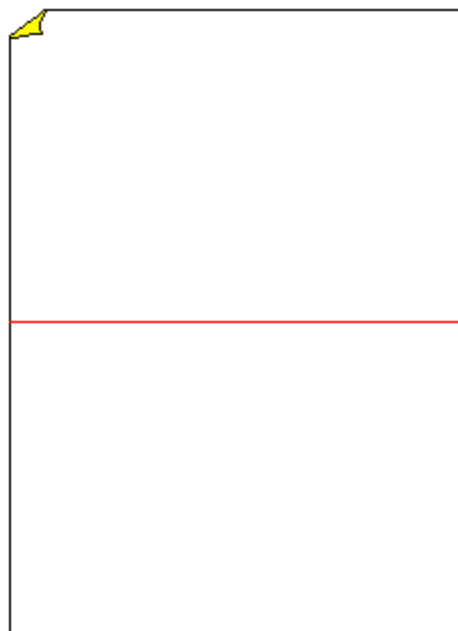
Gordy: That's kind of neat.

Presenter: Yes, and because of what Jesus did for us, you can have courage anytime you go through the storms of life. Gordy, will you pray?

Gordy: Sure. Dear God, thank you that you give us courage when we go through the storms of life. Thank you for not letting me drown when I was in first grade. No matter what happens, God, I will choose to trust you. Thank you so much for the gift you gave us in Jesus. In his name, Amen.

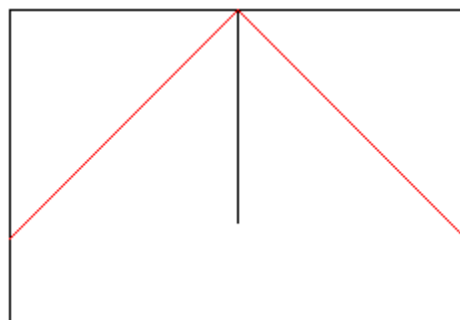
Folding a Paper Boat

- 1) Use a sheet of paper (8 1/2" x 11") and fold the upper half down to meet the bottom edge. (*Scripture verse on the bottom of the reverse side.*)

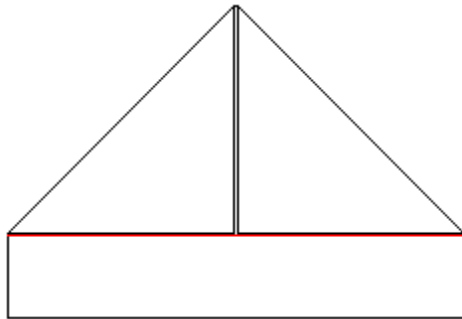
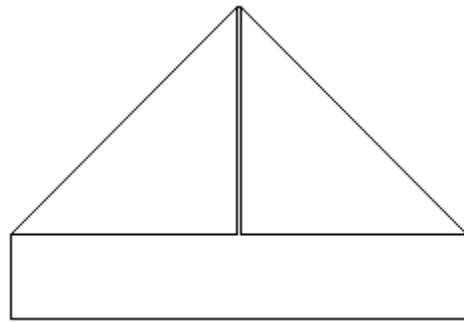


- 2) On the fold, crease a line in the middle of the half sheet. (*Scripture verse should be on the back of this half.*)

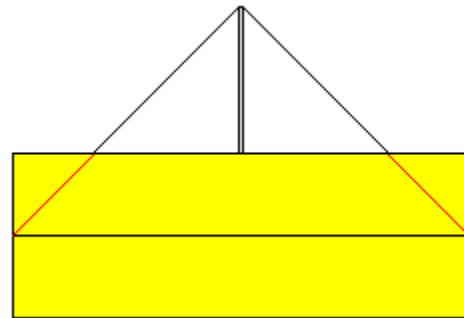
- 3) Fold downward both upper corners to the crease.



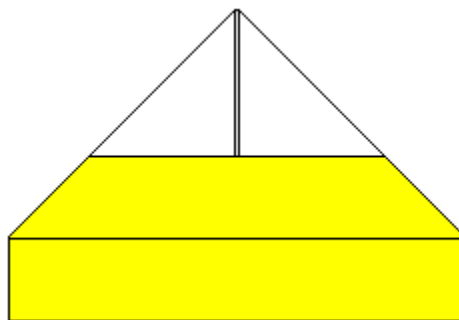
4) It will look like this.



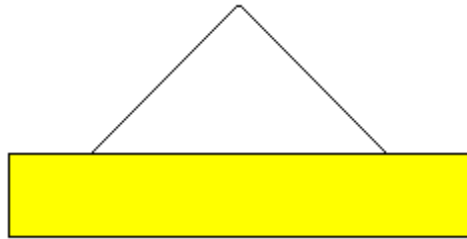
5) From the bottom, fold the top strip upward.



6) Fold back the two small triangles on the left and on the right to make them disappear so it looks like this.



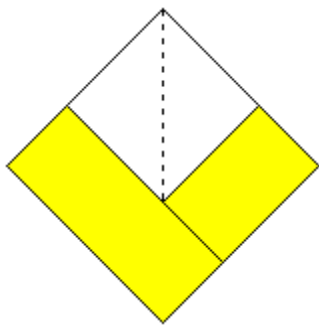
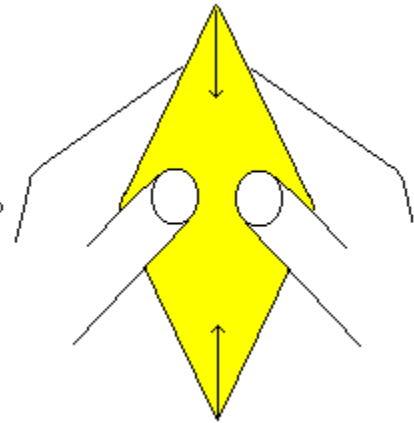
7) Turn the paper over and fold the other lower strip upwards. You have formed the well-known “hat”.



8) Turn the hat 90 degrees and open it. The thumbs must be inside. Lay the upper and the lower parts on each other.

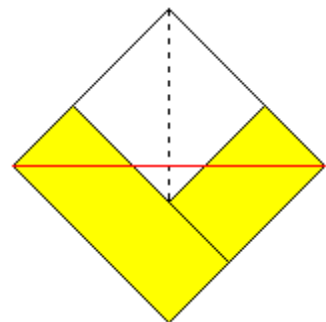


View from inside the hat.

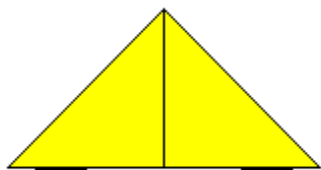
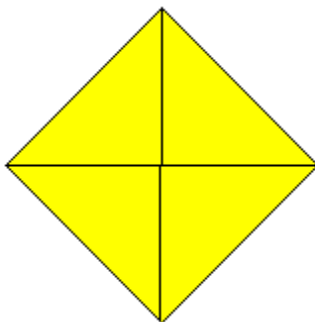


9) Crease the sides with the bottom points together so it looks like this.

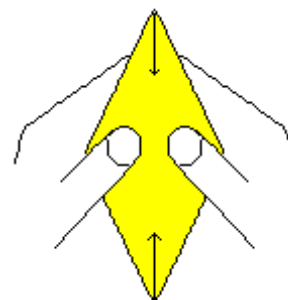
10) Fold the lower front corner upwards to meet the top corner.



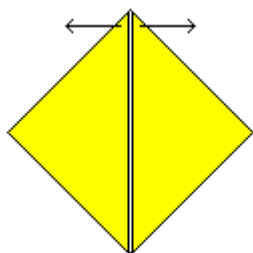
11) It will look like this.



12) Turn the paper over and fold up the other lower triangle so it looks like a hat without a brim.

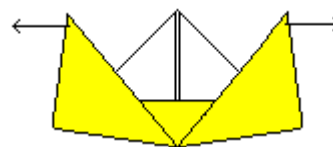


13) Open the hat again so the points come together and form a diamond shape. Crease the fold.

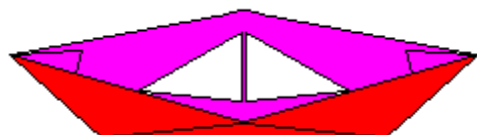
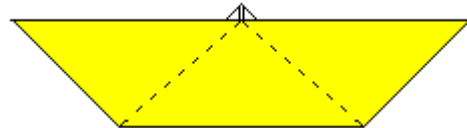


14) Pull the upper corners of the triangles in direction of the arrows.

15) Continue pulling the points out until the boat is formed.



16) It is finished when the sail is just visible above the sides of the boat.



17) Stretch the sides of the boat both to the right and left, and then separate it slightly from underneath so it can float.

***“Do not be afraid
because I have reclaimed
you. I have called you by name.
You are mine. When you go through
the sea, I am with you.” Isaiah 43:1b-2a***

GOD GIVES COURAGE TO FACE THE STORMS OF LIFE.