

## LESSON 4

**PAUL'S SHIPWRECK**

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Courage

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 27–28

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Paul—who was eager to share the good news of Jesus with the Roman emperor, Caesar—was imprisoned and taken onto a ship sailing toward Rome. Miraculously, all passengers survive a catastrophic shipwreck.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Don't live the way this world lives. Let your way of thinking be completely changed. Then you will be able to test what God wants for you. And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect. —Romans 12:2

**CURIOSITY****BELIEF****FAITH**

- Welcome Question: Who's the bravest character you've ever seen or read about?
- Game: Fear Factory
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship
- Blessing Your Kids



### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Courage

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 27–28

**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 12:2

Have you been weathering any storms lately? The storms in life can be rough. They can shake your confidence, wreak havoc on your relationships, and cause you to question everything. Scripture warns us that storms will come. When they do, meditate on God's promises. He won't leave you during your storm; He'll be right there beside you.

Paul saw his share of storms (both literally and spiritually). Throughout his ministry, Paul was beaten, mocked, and imprisoned almost more times than we can count. But there was one constant throughout: he never gave up. He never stopped doing the work God called him to do; he never called it quits in the midst of a storm. Look at Paul's encouraging words to the others on the ship with him during a physical storm in Acts 27:25: "So keep up your courage" (NIV). Paul got it. He knew, that on his own, he didn't stand a chance against the storm; but Paul wasn't alone.

Whatever storm you are going through, know your survival isn't dependent on you and your giftedness. As Paul reminds us again in Ephesians 6, it's not our battle. We merely need to stand firm and to take courage. Give your storms and battles to the Lord. He will never leave you. He will lead you, guide you, and see you through ... so take courage.

—Amber Pike

Kidmin Leader and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Luke, author of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts, writes in the first-person voice only in the final chapters of Acts (the “we” passages). Many Bible commentators take this to mean that Luke was a travel companion of Paul and present during these events.

**WHAT?**

Paul's elevated status meant that a centurion guarded him. This centurion saved his life, for whereas the other soldiers were planning to kill the prisoners, Paul's guard persuades them to trust the prisoners to swim—requiring that their chains be removed (Acts 27:43).

**WHERE?**

When the ship came to rest on the island of Malta (Acts 28:1), it had traveled at least 600 miles from Crete. These are some of the most treacherous waters in the Mediterranean Sea.

**WHEN?**

A voyage after the feast of the Day of Atonement (Acts 27:9) means the ship was traveling to Rome as late as October, when the dangerous conditions of winter were already threatening. Travel by ship would become outright impossible in only a few short weeks.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

From Luke 8:22–25, we know Jesus has the authority to command the winds and the waves. Like Jesus, who was able to sleep during a storm, Paul calmly urges his companions to eat and await God's deliverance (Acts 27:33–34).

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Courage

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 27–28

**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 12:2

### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loopPlay high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be sure to move to their level and introduce yourself to any new friends. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

TIP\*\*When you show sincere interest in a child's life, you invite a relationship. Try asking individual kids what made them happy or sad since you saw them last, and listen carefully to their answers.

**SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP**

### Welcome Question

Consider using a **30 or 2:00 Countdown** to let leaders and kids know it's almost time to begin!

### At Your Start Time...

**SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

Call attention to the Welcome Question on the screen and invite Small Group Leaders to begin: **Who's the bravest character you've ever seen**

**or read about? Today we'll meet someone who showed great bravery, but he didn't do it on his own. We'll learn how The Holy Spirit gives us courage, so even if we're feeling afraid, we can also be brave as we trust in God's power and protection.**

**SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US COURAGE.**



Who's the bravest character you've ever seen or read about?

TRANSFORMED



Today's Wonder Truth:  
The Holy Spirit Gives Us Courage

TRANSFORMED

### Small Group

While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

### VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! I have a little game for us first today!

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

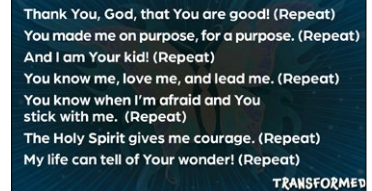
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**You know when I'm afraid and You stick with me.** (Kids repeat.)

**The Holy Spirit gives me courage.** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)  
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)  
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)  
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)  
You know when I'm afraid and You stick with me. (Repeat)  
The Holy Spirit gives me courage. (Repeat)  
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

TRANSFORMED

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words with this prayer below as a guide if needed: **Your Holy Spirit gives us courage, God, and we thank You for being with us so we never have to face scary stuff alone. You are our strength and comfort, God! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you! Remember that some kids may have no idea why we worship or what we are doing! Invite all kids to stand up, and to move closer to the stage to participate all together.

### WORSHIP VIDEOS: **Alive with You, Jesus Is Peace**

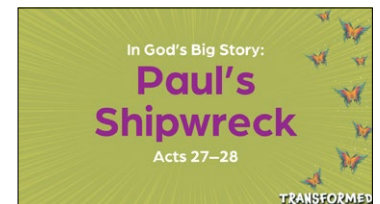
## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE SLIDE

Explain how Acts is packed with amazing things that happened to the first Jesus-followers, including miraculous healings, prison escapes, and a ship-splintering shipwreck that threw 276 people into a stormy sea!

**Let's start by watching part of God's big story! Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!**

### VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY



## LESSON 4 PAUL'S SHIPWRECK EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** detective costume, highlighter (optional)

**RESOURCES:** *Shipwreck Sleuthing Sheets* (1 set per SG)

Ahead of time, print the Shipwreck Sleuthing Sheets, one set per SG. Shuffle each set so they are not in order. Dressing the part will help capture and keep kids' attention, so gather detective costume pieces, such as a trench coat, hat, small notebook, and pen. Consider inviting a youth or adult volunteer to advance the Shipwreck Sleuthing Slides.

Gather kids and help them form groups of four or five. Put on the detective costume.

**SLIDE: Sleuthing Slide 1.**

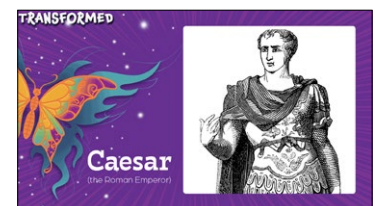
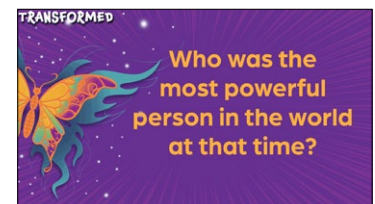
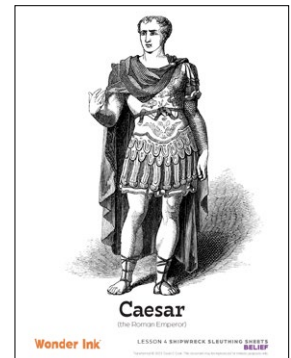
**"Good day, my fellow detectives! I'm working on a case and need your help filling in the missing details! Are you up for some good old-fashioned sleuthing?"** Pause for kids to respond.

**I have a story to tell you, but some of the details seem to be missing from the report. I have clues** (hold up the Experience It! Script you're reading), **and I have answers** (hold up a set of Sleuthing Sheets), **but I don't know which answers go to which clues.** Hand a set of Sleuthing Sheets to each group. **Your job is to find the answer to each clue as it comes up in the story. Are you up for that?** Pause for kids to answer.

**The Book of Acts tells the story of how God took one of the greatest enemies of the early Christians—a Jewish man named Paul—and transformed him into a missionary for Jesus. Paul carried the good news of Jesus to many people: Jews, non-Jews, men, women, the poor, and the powerful. In fact, God chose Paul to preach to the most powerful person in the whole world at that time. But who might that be?**

**Advance to Sleuthing Slide 2. Who was the most powerful person in the world at this time?** Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Yes! The most powerful person in the world at that time was the Roman emperor, Caesar, and Paul was going to preach to him!**

**Advance to Sleuthing Slide 3. But first, Paul had to get to Rome! God had an unexpected way to get Paul all the way to Rome. First, Paul was arrested and charged with stirring up trouble. Then, when Paul could have been released, he asked that Caesar be his judge. He had the legal right to go all the way to Rome to the emperor in charge, and Paul planned to tell him all about Jesus.**



For the journey, Paul was guarded by Roman soldiers to make sure he couldn't get away. So how did Paul get to Rome? Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 4**. What type of transportation did Paul use to travel toward Rome? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Excellent work, detectives!**

Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 5**. Together with other prisoners, Paul boarded a ship sailing to Rome. In those days, traveling on ships was very dangerous. Unless the sailors had perfect weather, there was always a risk the ship could be destroyed and everyone could die. Paul warned the sailors and soldiers that bad weather was ahead. But they didn't listen to their prisoner, Paul.

They set sail, and ... I'm not sure what happened next. Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 6**. What happened when they set sail? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Great work!**

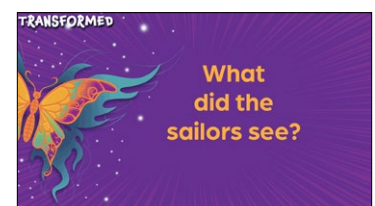
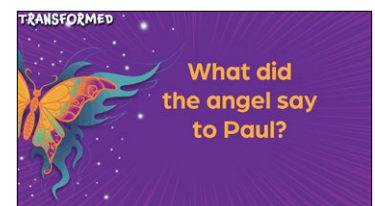
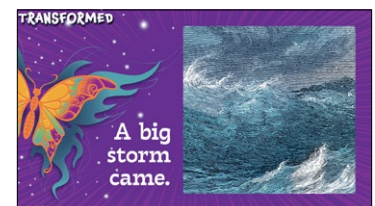
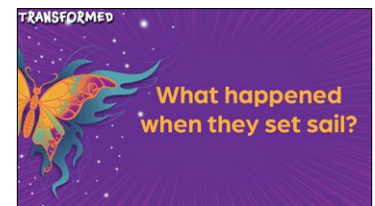
Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 7**. Just as Paul had warned, a big storm came. The sailors were trying to be careful not to lose sight of land, but they couldn't get to shore without hitting sharp rocks that would destroy the ship and kill everyone. Eventually they realized they were in a life-or-death situation, and all they could hope to do was to get safely off the boat without drowning in the sea.

Paul stood up and told the group to have courage. He shared that an angel had appeared to him. The angel said to Paul ... wait, I'm not sure. Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 8**. What did the angel say to Paul? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Good work!**

Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 9**. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, Paul. You must go on trial in front of Caesar. God has shown his grace by sparing the lives of all those sailing with you" (Acts 27:24, NIV). Everyone sailing with Paul would live! He knew God was going to protect everyone so that Paul could finish his important mission.

But the sailors still didn't believe Paul was on a mission from God. They tried to escape in a lifeboat, but the Roman soldiers cut the ropes so they couldn't leave. Paul encouraged everyone to eat even while the storm raged, battering the ship to pieces.

Finally they spotted something in the distance. Advance to **Sleuthing Slide 10**. What did the sailors see? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Excellent sleuthing!**



**Advance to Sleuthing Slide 11.** The sailors spotted a beach and tried to steer the ship to land. But the ship got stuck in the sand and started breaking into pieces.

The soldiers planned to kill all the prisoners, including Paul, because they feared the prisoners would escape. But the centurion in charge didn't want to kill Paul, and he stopped them. Everyone leapt from the boat! Oh, no ... the story is so suspenseful, and I'm missing the next part.

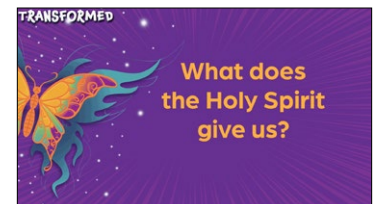
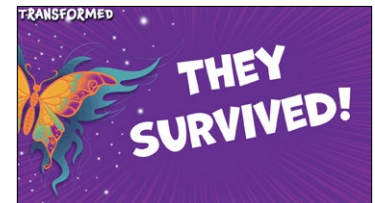
**Advance to Sleuthing Slide 12.** What happened to all the people on board, including Paul and the other prisoners? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it. **Yes!**

**Advance to Sleuthing Slide 13.** They all survived, just as Paul had predicted. Everyone was saved, all because Paul had a special mission from God. Eventually, Paul made it all the way to Rome. He had the chance to speak to Caesar. While in Rome, Paul "preached boldly about God's kingdom. He taught people about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one could keep him from teaching and preaching about these things" (Acts 28:31). Paul could be courageous because he knew God was with him.

The same is true for anyone who follows Jesus. When we have the presence of God in us, called the Holy Spirit, we can ask God to show us the right way to live. God doesn't promise we'll be safe at all times, but even when we face danger, God is with us, and the Holy Spirit gives us ... **advance to Sleuthing Slide 14.** Hmm ... what does the Holy Spirit give us? Challenge groups to look through their Sleuthing Sheets and hold up the answer when they think they've found it.

**Yes, thanks to your excellent investigative work, we know the whole story! Advance to Sleuthing Slide 15. Let's say this one loudly all together: The Holy Spirit gives us courage!"**

Collect Sleuthing Sheets from the kids and thank them for their help telling (and solving!) today's story.





## Connecting the Wonder Truth

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Shipwreck Wonder Truth Slide

Display the Shipwreck Wonder Truth Slide. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth is THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US COURAGE. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**In Luke 8, we read about a time when Jesus and His disciples were in a boat and a storm came up suddenly. Jesus was sleeping, and the disciples woke Him up. Jesus ordered the wind and waves to stop, and they did! Today in God's big story, Paul trusted God even while a storm raged. The Holy Spirit gave him courage.**



## Responding in Worship: Rocky Shoals

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

**\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. There are no motions to this video. Kids should still stand and leaders should model worship like they would in adult service. Please refer to the Worship Posture Tutorial on the resource page before leading.**

### WORSHIP SONG: YOUR GREAT NAME



## Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words, with the blessing below as a guide if needed.

**Blessing:** May you live boldly, filled with courage given by the Holy

**Spirit. And may you stand strong for Jesus, walking with Him always, part of a plan that's good, pleasing, and perfect.**