

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 copy the ways of the world. Let God transform you. —from Romans 12:2

CURIOSITY**BELIEF****FAITH**

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

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: From 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).



LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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: From Romans 12:2

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hello, everyone! It's time to hear from a special friend. Do you remember Tac the Cat?

Everyone say, "Hi, Tac!"

(Tac peeks his head out from behind the "stage" then hides again.)

Leader: That's odd. Tac usually loves talking to us. Let's try again. Everyone say, "Hi, Tac!"

Tac the Cat: *(Trembling, Tac appears.)* Hi, everyone ...

Leader: What's wrong, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Well, I heard on the news there's a thunderstorm coming through tonight, and I do not like storms! I'm so scared!

Leader: You're scared of thunderstorms?

Tac the Cat: Yes! Thunder can be so loud, and the lightning flashes so brightly! And the wind makes such a loud noise too! Aren't you scared of thunderstorms?

Leader: Not really, at least not as scared as you seem to be.

Tac the Cat: What?? How are you not scared of storms?

Leader: Well, Tac, I know who controls thunderstorms. Do you?

Tac the Cat: That would be God, wouldn't it?

Leader: That's right! God controls the whole world, so He's in charge of thunderstorms too! I know that no matter what, God is with me. Knowing that gives me courage whenever I'm in a scary situation, like a storm. Do you know that God is with you, Tac?

Tac the Cat: Well, yeah!

Leader: So what do you think would happen during a scary storm if you asked God to remind you that He's with you and He loves you?

Tac the Cat: I think God would give me some courage and help me feel better. But would that work in other scary situations?

Leader: I think so, Tac, because we know that God gives us courage through the Holy Spirit! But you don't have to take my word for it. God shows us this in the Bible too.

Tac the Cat: Oh, I'd love to read more about that in the Bible! I think it will help me know that God is with me and will give me courage. I have so many questions! Well I'm going to go home now and prepare for the storm by gathering a flashlight and water and a blanket! Bye!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What does it mean to have courage? Allow the kids to respond. How does God give us courage through the Holy Spirit? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God gives us courage when we face things that are scary? Allow the kids to respond.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US COURAGE. Today, we'll discover how the Holy Spirit gives us courage!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

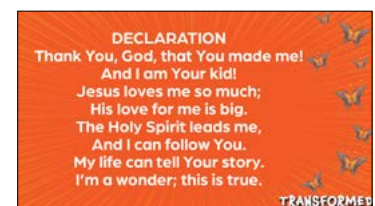
Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.



And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words with the prayer below as a guide if needed **God, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that, when we are scared, knowing You are with us through Your Spirit gives us courage. Build our trust that You are with us and that You love us. Help us have courage through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit gave Paul courage during his shipwreck. Let's sing about how God makes us brave!"

WORSHIP SONGS: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, NEVER BE

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week with the kids before the Bible story, to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: detective costume, small notebook, pen, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCES: *Sleuthing Sheets (1 set)*

Ahead of time, print a set of the Sleuthing Sheets and cut apart the pictures. Shuffle the pictures so they are not in order. Gather detective costume pieces such as a trench coat, fedora, small notebook, and pen.

Before you begin, put on the detective costume. Pretend to scribble in the small notebook.

"I am Detective (say your name). **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 detective work?**

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 small notebook), **and I have answers** (hold up a set of Sleuthing Sheets), **but I don't know which answers go to which clues. Your job is to find the answer to each clue as it appears in the story. Are you up for that?** Pause for kids to answer.

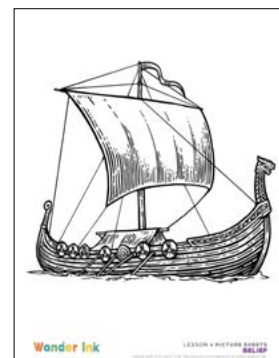
The book of Acts tells us a lot about a man named Paul. Paul brought the good news of Jesus to many people: Jews, non-Jews, men, women, the poor, and the powerful. In fact, God chose Paul to preach to the most powerful person in the whole world at that time. But who might that be? Who was the most powerful person in the world at this time? I'm going to show you two possible answers.

Can you stand in front of the Sleuthing Sheet that you think gives the correct answer? Hold up the Sleuthing Sheet 1 (Caesar the Roman emperor) in one hand and another Sleuthing Sheet in the other. Allow kids to answer by standing in front of either sheet. **Yes!** Have the kids sit back down. **The most powerful person in the world at that time was the Roman emperor Caesar, and Paul was going to preach to him! But first, Paul had to get to Rome!**

God had an unexpected way to get Paul all the way to Rome. Paul was arrested for talking about Jesus. So Paul asked to go to Rome so Caesar could hear his case. Paul planned to tell Caesar all about Jesus.

So how did Paul get to Rome? What type of transportation did Paul use to travel there? Hold up the Sleuthing Sheet 2 (Roman ship) in one hand and another Sleuthing Sheet in the other. Allow kids to answer by standing in front of either sheet. **Great work, detectives!** Have the kids sit back down. **Paul sailed to Rome on a ship with his Roman guards. In those days, traveling on ships was very dangerous. There was always the risk of a storm sinking your ship. Even though Paul was a prisoner, he warned the sailors and soldiers that bad weather was ahead, but they didn't listen to him.**

They set sail and ... well, what do you think happened next? Hold up the Sleuthing Sheet 3 (stormy sea) in one hand and another Sleuthing Sheet in the other. Allow kids to answer by standing in front of either sheet. **Great work!** Have the kids sit back down. **Just as Paul had warned, a big storm came. Everyone on board the ship—including Paul—was in danger! The sailors were very scared.**



Then Paul stood up and told the group to have courage. He shared that an angel had appeared to him. God sent an angel who 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! Paul knew that God was going to protect everyone so that Paul could finish his important mission.

Finally, the sailors spotted something in the distance. What did they see? Hold up the Sleuthing Sheet 4 (remote beach) in one hand and another Sleuthing Sheet in the other. Allow kids to answer by standing in front of either sheet. **Excellent sleuthing!** Have the kids sit back down. **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.**

Everyone jumped from the boat! Oh no ... the story is so exciting, and I’m missing the next part. What happened to all the people on board, including Paul and the other prisoners? Hold up the Sleuthing Sheet 5 (people cheering) in one hand and another Sleuthing Sheet in the other. Allow kids to answer by standing in front of either sheet. **Yes!** Have the kids sit back down. **They all survived, just as Paul had said. Everyone was saved, all because Paul had a special mission from God. Paul could be courageous because he knew that God was with him.**

The same is true for anyone who follows Jesus. When we have the presence of God in us, which is the Holy Spirit, we can ask God to show us the right way to live. God does not promise that we will be safe at all times. But even when we face danger, God is with us, and the Holy Spirit gives us courage.

Thanks to your excellent investigative work, we know the whole story, and we can remember that the Holy Spirit gives us courage!"

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

In Luke 8, we read the true story 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, we heard about Paul, who remained calm and trusted God even while a storm raged. Paul knew God has power over the weather, and the Holy Spirit gave Paul courage."

Prayer and Blessing

Pray over kids, thanking God for giving us courage through His Holy Spirit. Use your own words **God, thank You for being our place of safety. We know You are always with us, through Your Holy Spirit. Because You are with us, we can have courage even when life gets hard. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive a blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God bless you with His presence. May His Holy Spirit give you courage during every scary situation in your life.