

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**

- Play Stations:
 - Beach Exploration
 - Rolling Ocean Storm
 - Paul's Shipwreck Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Will It Float?
- God's Big Story/ Snack
- Word of Wonder: Romans 12:2
- Circle Time: Ex-SHELL-ent Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Salt Water Painting
- Closing Game: Sailing on the Sea!
- Game: Brave the Waves

[Transformed Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: bucket of sand, seashells, pieces of wood (for driftwood), bucket of water, toy boats, paper fan, blue blanket or sheet, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Paul's Shipwreck Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning today?"

Play Station: Beach Exploration

Set-up: Fill one bucket with sand, seashells, and driftwood. Fill another bucket with water and toy boats. Place the paper fan next to the water bucket.

Play: Encourage kids to explore beach textures through sand, water, shells, and driftwood. Let kids wave the paper fan or lightly tap the side of the bucket to see how it creates waves on the "ocean."

Play Station: Rolling Ocean Storm

Set-up: Lay a blue blanket (or sheet) down with a toy boat in the middle.

Play: Instruct the kids to grab a corner of the blanket (or sheet) and move it up and down gently, creating "waves," and see how the boat is tossed by the storm.

Play Station: Paul's Shipwreck Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a boat.

Curiosity Activity: Will It Float?

SUPPLIES: bucket of water, aluminum foil, coins (at least 1 per kid)

Leader Tip: Use the bucket of water from the Beach Exploration play station to do this Curiosity activity.

Gather kids around the bucket of water. Use a sheet of aluminum foil to create a small boat by folding it multiple times, then place it in the water. Instruct kids to observe how the pretend boat floats on the water. Give each child a coin and take turns putting them into your boat. See how many coins the boat will hold before it sinks! Depending on the weight of the coins and thickness of the foil boat, you will likely get around ten coins on the boat before it sinks.

Who could tell when the boat was about to sink? Allow a show of hands. **We all know that if a boat gets too heavy, it will sink. Can you imagine, though, being on that boat and knowing it would sink? How would you feel?** Allow answers. **Right! We might feel scared or nervous.**

In God's big story today, we will see that Paul, a follower of Jesus, knew the boat he was on would sink. However, instead of being scared, Paul had courage! Do you know why? Because he knew that God, through the Holy Spirit, was with him. God had told Paul that even though his boat would sink, he and all the other passengers would be safe. Paul could have courage because he knew that God was with him. We can be brave in scary situations, too, because the Holy Spirit gives us courage!"



Word of Wonder

"In this game, we are going to use ocean waves to learn today's Word of Wonder. You might wonder where the ocean waves are. You are the ocean! In a minute, we will speak the Word of Wonder one word at a time. The first person will stand up, do "the wave," (demonstrate "the wave" commonly done at sporting events; a person stands up and raises her hands up over her head and then sits back down) and say the first word. Then the second person will stand up, do "the wave," (demonstrate action again) and say the second word. We'll keep doing this until we've said the whole verse. Once we've got it down, let's see how fast we can make a wave and say the Word of Wonder together, one word at a time!

Kids will say the verse one word at a time while raising their arms and doing "the wave." Have kids line up side by side around the room. When the first person does the first wave, he should say the first word of the verse. Then the second person does the wave and says the second word, etc. See how fast your kids can do the wave! Make it challenging by having kids swap places (and therefore, words) after a few rounds.

WORD OF WONDER

**Don't copy the ways of the world.
Let God transform you.**

—From Romans 12:2

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

- **DON'T COPY**—Shake head and place open palms together.
- **THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.**—Draw a large circle in the air.
- **LET GOD**—Point up.
- **TRANSFORM YOU.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **ROMANS 12:2**—Hold your hands open, as if holding a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some “ways of the world” we don’t want to copy?**
- **What is good about God transforming us?**

God’s Big Story / Snack

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 hear part of God’s big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.”

Read pages 398–403 in the My First Hands On Bible.

Circle Time: Ex-SHELL-ent Questions

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), seashells (1 per kid), tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Ex-SHELL-ent Questions (1 set)

Gather kids and have them sit in a circle.

Before the kids arrive, print the Ex-SHELL-ent questions, cut them apart, and fold them to fit inside the seashells. Use a small piece of tape to secure each question to a shell. Some shells will remain empty.

Have the kids sit down. Place the shells in front of your group. **“Paul was sailing on a sea. One thing we found in the sea is seashells! Today, our**

questions are in some of these shells. We’ll need to hunt for them to find them. When it’s your turn, you can choose one shell to turn over and see if a question is underneath.

Start with the oldest kid in the group and allow kids to take turns picking a shell. If a kid finds one with a question, have her hand you the question to ask the group. Once a question is found, remove that shell until all questions have been found and answered.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was Paul sailing to go see?** (*Caesar*)
- **What happened on Paul’s journey?** (*A storm came and threatened the ship.*)
- **What did God tell Paul about him and his shipmates?** (*Everyone would live.*)
- **What eventually happened to everyone on the ship?** (*They reached an island and were safe.*)



- **Why did Paul have courage?** (Because he knew God was with him through the Holy Spirit)
- **Why can we have courage in scary situations?**
- **Share about a time when God gave you courage when you were afraid.**
- **What can we remember about God even when we're afraid?**

Paul had courage because he knew God was with him. In the same way, we can have courage because we know that God is with us too! God cares about you, just like God cared about Paul and his shipmates. We are so blessed to have God's presence with us through the Holy Spirit each day. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Saltwater Painting

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid); watercolors; paintbrushes (1 per kid); cups of water; salt; large piece of butcher paper, craft paper, or a disposable tablecloth (optional)

RESOURCES: "It Is Well with My Soul" from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify Playlist](#) (optional)

"Paul and everyone on the ship experienced a scary storm. Have you ever experienced a storm that felt scary to you? What happened? Interact with responses. We all go through times that make us feel afraid. But we can remember that the Holy Spirit gives us courage.

Today, we're going to listen to a few verses to remind us about God helping us. As I read the verses, I invite you to close your eyes and be as quiet as you can. Give kids a moment to settle down and close their eyes.

Listen to these special words from God. Read Psalm 46:1–3: **"God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble. The earth may fall apart. The mountains may fall into the middle of the sea. But we will not be afraid. The waters of the sea may roar and foam. The mountains may shake when the waters rise. But we will not be afraid"** (NIV).

After reading the verse, set out the watercolors, paper, and salt for the kids. **Do you know what kind of water is in the sea? It's saltwater. Let's paint pictures and sprinkle them with salt as we remember that the Holy Spirit gives us courage."**

Leader Tip: To help contain the mess, you can lay down a large piece of butcher or craft paper or a disposable tablecloth.

Allow kids to paint on their papers, then show them how to sprinkle salt over the watercolors. (It will cause a chemical reaction that lightens the paint colors where the salt lands, while the surrounding areas will be a darker shade.) **Because of God, we can go from being afraid to being courageous. As you paint and watch the colors change, think about how God changes us by giving us courage through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us be courageous!**" Consider playing "It Is Well with My Soul" from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) as the kids paint.

Closing Activity: Sailing on the Sea!

SUPPLIES: blanket or bed sheet

Lay a blanket (or sheet) on the floor to act as the "ship" in this game. Invite the kids to "board the ship" and sit down on the blanket.

"When Paul's ship experienced bad weather, Paul helped the sailors and the commander know what to do. In this game, I will give you some commands to follow related to sailing on the sea. See if all of you can work together as a team and do them at the same time. If I yell, "Shipwreck," you should make a swimming motion."

Row the boat: Make a rowing motion.

Hoist the sails: Makes fists and have their fists move in a downward motion, one over the other, like pretending to pull a rope.

Feel seasick: Grab stomach and moan.

Fish for food: Place both hands above one shoulder and make a forward-throwing motion.

Sharks: Make a surprised or scared face.

Call out different actions for the kids to follow. Don't forget to call out "Shipwreck" from time to time. If you have time, allow kids to take turns calling out the commands.

Optional Game: Brave the Waves

SUPPLIES: jump ropes (3)

"In this game, we are going to brave the waves just like Paul! It's OK to be silly while we play, but we can use the game to remind us how the Holy Spirit gives us courage in scary situations. Remembering that God is with us can help us be brave in any circumstance!"

Lay the jump ropes parallel to each other on the ground. Split the kids into two teams: Team A and Team B. Have Team A get into pairs, one person on either end of a jump rope, and gently wave the rope along the ground from left to right. Team B must race across one at a time, trying not to step on or get hit by the jump ropes. If they do, Team A gets a point. After everyone on Team B has run through, the teams switch. Whichever team has the most points at the end wins!