

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.

INTRO ACTIVITY: Stormy Weather

ACTIVITY: Beach Exploration

WORSHIP

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

ACTIVITY: Ocean Waves

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

INTRO ACTIVITY: Stormy Weather

SUPPLIES: electric fans (at least 1), spray bottles with water

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Rain Sound Effect

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Prepare the Rain Sound Effect. Fill spray bottles with water.

Welcome! We are so glad you came to church today! Today, we are learning about how God was with a man named Paul even through a scary storm. Let's imagine what it might be like to be on a ship in the middle of a storm. I've got some things that can help pretend to be in a storm at sea while we're here!

Create a simulated storm by playing the Rain Sound Effect, turning on the fans to be the wind, and lightly spraying water into the air with the spray bottles. Invite the kids to rock back and forth as they pretend they're on a boat in a storm at sea.

Make It Virtual!

This activity would work in a digital or virtual ministry. Simply play the Rain Sound Effect and blow the fan at yourself while someone off-camera sprays water on you. To make it more fun, you could wear a poncho or raincoat. Tell the kids you're learning about someone who was in a storm at sea.

ACTIVITY: Beach Exploration

SUPPLIES: bucket of sand, seashells, tarp

Set up the activity by placing the sand bucket on top of the tarp to mitigate messes. Encourage toddlers to explore the sand and seashells. Prompt them to focus on the different textures of each item.

We're learning today about someone who was in a scary situation in a storm at sea. The person ended up on a beach and discovered how the Holy Spirit gives courage. As you play with the beach items, we can get curious about the story we're learning today!

Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US COURAGE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—Push hands out and away from chest.

GIVES US—Place both hands together, palms up.

COURAGE.—Flex arm muscles.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning how the Holy Spirit gives us courage.

We'll learn in this part of God's big story how God gave His servant, Paul, courage even in the middle of a huge storm! Let's sing and praise God for the courage He gives.

Play songs from the [Transformed Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Sleuthing Picture Sheets, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Today in God's big story, we'll be learning a great story from the Bible about a person named Paul. Encourage the kids to say, "Paul." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Paul!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

Ahead of time, print the Picture Sheets.

Lay the Picture Sheets on the ground in front of you in order.

I'm going to tell you a story and you can help by pointing to the picture that goes with parts of the story. Pause for kids to answer.

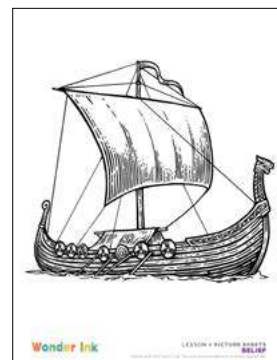
The book of Acts tells us a lot about a man named Paul. Paul shared the good news of Jesus with many people. But some people didn't like that Paul preached about Jesus, so they had him arrested. Paul traveled to Rome to tell the rulers how he didn't do anything wrong. What do you think Paul sailed to Rome in? Encourage toddlers to point to the ship picture. **Great work! While he was on the boat, Paul warned the sailors and soldiers that bad weather was ahead, but they didn't listen to Paul because he was a prisoner.**

They set sail, and just as Paul had warned, some bad weather appeared. What happens when the weather is bad? Encourage toddlers to point to the storm picture. **That's right! The ship and its crew—including Paul—were in danger! The sailors were very scared.**

Then Paul stood up and told the group to have courage. He shared that God had told him, "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!

Finally, they spotted something in the distance. What do you think they saw? Encourage toddlers to point to the beach picture. **Excellent job! The sailors spotted a beach. And even though their ship sank, everyone lived!**

Paul had courage because he knew that God was with him. The same is true for anyone who follows Jesus today. When we have God with us through the Holy Spirit, we can have courage. Let's say this all together: (Shout out the Wonder Truth with the kids) **The Holy Spirit gives us courage!**



Prayer and Blessing

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 during hard times in life. 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 the blessing as you speak it over them.

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

Activity: Ocean Waves

SUPPLIES: blue crepe paper streamers, scissors (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Rain Sound Effect

Before you begin, cut or tear off one piece of blue streamer per kid. Play the Rain Sound Effect.

Do you hear the storm sounds? Encourage the kids to pause and listen to the storm sounds. **Let's make waves in an ocean! Wave your streamer up, down, and all around. Do we look like ocean waves? Awesome! These waves look like the ocean Paul was sailing on during the storm.**

Give each toddler a blue streamer. Encourage the kids stand up and move around the room while waving their streamers to become "ocean waves." Help them see that with everyone waving streamers, your room has been transformed into the ocean!