

## The Shipwreck

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 27:13-44; 28:11-16

**MAIN POINT:** God protected Paul in the shipwreck.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Philippians 1:21

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.

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**TEACH  
THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
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**EXPERIENCE  
THE STORY**  
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THE STORY**  
(10+ MINUTES)  
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## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Paul was in Roman custody because of unfounded accusations brought against him by the Jews. Paul had stood before rulers in Caesarea and invoked his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar. So Festus the governor arranged for Paul to go to Rome.

Paul got onto a ship going toward Rome. As if Paul's journey to Rome had not already been delayed and complicated enough, the ship was caught up in a terrible

storm. Paul had warned the crew not to sail from Crete because they would lose everything and die. But they didn't listen. Paul pointed out the error of their ways, but he still gave them hope. An angel had appeared to Paul. He said Paul would make it to Rome and all of the people with him would survive.

Paul urged everyone on the ship to eat so they would have energy. They planned to run the ship ashore on an island, but the ship got stuck on a sandbar. The waves battered the ship and it broke into pieces; however, all of the people survived and made it safely to shore.

Paul suffered for Christ. In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul listed the kinds of things he faced: beatings, stoning, shipwrecks, various dangers, hardship, sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, nakedness, and other daily pressures. (See 2 Cor. 11:24-29.) Again and again, Paul saw evidence of God's control over his life and the gospel was advanced.

As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue them from the storm. He also encouraged the sailors to trust God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to tell others this good news. We can encourage others to trust God because we know He is good and in control.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/the-gospel-project>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Make it interactive:**  
When discussing the storm, spritz the preschoolers with a light spray of water from a squirt bottle. Flicker the classroom lights off and on quickly to represent lightning. Play storm sound effects. Guide children to rock back and forth as if in the boat. Pretend to swim to shore.
- **Use sticky notes:**  
Draw simple pictures or shapes on sticky notes to represent different parts of the story. Arrange the sticky note drawings so they cover the Bible Story Picture Poster. As you come to the appropriate moment in the Bible story, remove a sticky note. Continue until all the sticky notes have been removed.

## The Shipwreck

*Acts 27:13-44; 28:11-16*

**Paul was a prisoner, and he was going to Rome to see Caesar, the emperor of the Roman Empire. Paul got on a ship with other prisoners going to Rome. But a big storm made the journey difficult.** Strong winds, waves, and rain pushed the ship up and down. **All the people on the ship were afraid** they would die.

**God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul to not be afraid. God was going to keep everyone on the ship safe. Paul told the other people on the ship what God had said.** “Be brave,” he said. “I believe God is telling the truth. We will be safe, but we have to get the ship onto an island.”

**The ship got close to an island, and some of the sailors tried to escape in a lifeboat. Paul told them to stay on the ship** if they wanted to be safe. **The sailors obeyed Paul.** Now, everyone was really hungry so Paul told them it was time to eat. He thanked God and broke the bread, and everyone ate. Then they sailed closer to the island.

**All of a sudden, the ship hit a sandbar in the water and got stuck.** The waves crashed into the ship, and it **began to break into pieces. A soldier in charge told everyone to swim to the shore. Anyone who could not swim clung to the pieces of the ship. Everyone made it to shore. Paul was right; God had kept all of them safe.**

**Three months later, Paul got onto another ship and went to Rome. He was still a prisoner, but instead of going to jail, Paul was allowed to live by himself in a house. A soldier stayed with him to guard him, and people came to Paul’s house to visit. Paul taught people**

**about God's kingdom and about Jesus, and some of them believed.**

*Christ Connection: Paul trusted God's promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone.*

# Teach THE STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Shipwreck

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## Welcome and worship with song

- “Kingdom Kid” song
- “Don’t Stop” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Kingdom Kid” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “Don’t Stop.”

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- masking tape
- “The Shipwreck” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Tape a boat shape on the floor. Invite the preschoolers to sit in the boat as you tell the Bible story.

**SAY** • Have you ever been on a boat? Have you been on a boat during a storm? Paul was on a boat when a storm came in today’s Bible story. We are boarding our boat to hear the story of how God kept Paul safe during a storm.

Open your Bible to Acts 27. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- Bible marker or ribbon
- “To Live Is Christ” song

Place a Bible marker or ribbon at Philippians 1:21. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

**SAY** • Paul was probably afraid of the storm, but He

knew God would keep them safe. Paul would go to Rome just as God said. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** God planned for Paul to tell even more people the good news about Jesus.

## Learn the big picture question and answer

**SAY** • Our big picture question is, *When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell about Jesus all the time.* Even when Paul was in a scary storm and floating on pieces of wood in the sea, he told people about Jesus. We can tell people about Jesus in good times and in hard times.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Respond through song and prayer

**SAY** • **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** Paul trusted God's promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone.

• Main Point Poster  
• "Don't Stop" song  
• "Take My Life and Let It Be" song  
• "Saved by Grace Through Faith" song  
• offering basket

Sing "Don't Stop" and "Take My Life and Let It Be" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Saved by Grace Through Faith." You may also collect an offering.

**SAY** • God, thank You for giving us the Bible to teach us all about You and Your power. Help us to trust You like Paul did. Make us bold to share the good news of how Jesus died to rescue us from sin and death. We love You, amen.

## Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

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Tip: Allow enough open space for preschoolers to freely “swim.”

## Sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”

Invite children to sit on the floor as if sitting in a boat. Lead children in singing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” as they pretend to row the boat. Shout out “Shipwreck!” and instruct preschoolers to “swim” to the nearest table. Play again as time allows.

**SAY** • God is always trustworthy! We can trust Him to keep us safe in all things. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck** to show us that He can rescue us from anything, including our sin.

## Build boats

Provide foam cups, foam bowls, craft sticks, and tape. Invite preschoolers to use the supplies to design and build a boat. When preschoolers are finished, guide them to test their boats in a container of water.

**SAY** • Everyone was scared during the storm, but Paul trusted God would save them. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** We can also trust God who sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and death.

## Experiment with sinking and floating

Gather a container of water and several items (rubber ball,

- foam cups
- foam bowls
- craft sticks
- tape
- plastic container
- water

- plastic container
- water
- items that will sink
- items that will float
- towels

plastic toy, paper clip, wooden block, aluminum foil, pencil, sponge, plastic fork, and so forth). Ask preschoolers to predict if each item will float or sink. Test the items in the water. Keep towels handy for cleanup.

**SAY** • In today’s Bible story, several people on a boat were afraid they might sink in the middle of the sea. God sent an angel to tell them that He would rescue them and to trust in Him. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.**

## Make storm cloud art

Print the “Cloud” printable on heavyweight paper and cut it out for each preschooler. Point to and read the main point aloud. Guide preschoolers to glue cotton balls to one side of the cloud and blue streamers to the other side of the cloud to look like rain.

**SAY** • **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** We can trust God to rescue us from our sin because Jesus died in our place and God raised Him from the dead.

- “Cloud” printable, 1 per child
- markers
- cotton balls
- glue sticks
- blue streamers
- scissors

## Build an island scene

Explain that an island is a piece of land completely surrounded by water. Suggest a child construct an island scene with blocks. Use blue paper or cloth to represent water. Provide toy boats for preschoolers to play out the Bible story.

**SAY** • Paul trusted God’s promise to keep him and everyone else safe from the storm. He told the sailors to trust God too. **God protected Paul in the shipwreck.** God wants us to trust Jesus. Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone.

- blocks
- blue paper or cloth
- toy boats

## Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

# Review THE STORY

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## Review

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- “Don’t Stop” song
- “To Live Is Christ” song

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today’s Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. Why was Paul on a boat? (*He was going to Rome to see Caesar, the emperor of Rome.*)
2. What did the angel tell Paul during the storm? (*to not be afraid, God would keep them all safe.*)
3. Who made it to the island? (*everyone*)
4. Why did everyone make it safely to shore? (**God protected Paul in the shipwreck, and He protected the others too.**)
5. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell others about Jesus all the time.***

**SAY** • Even in a big storm on a boat, God was with Paul. God used Paul to tell others to trust in him. God wants us to trust in Jesus, who died to keep us safe from sin and death. This is the good news we should tell others about.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

## Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

**SAY** • God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us from sin

and death. Give us courage to tell others about You all the time and anywhere. We love You. Amen.

## Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, discuss the activity, the reasons for it, and your group's progress. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how Paul told everyone that Jesus died to keep people safe from sin and death. We can tell this same good news to everyone. You may also show the "Casting the Dye Part 3" missions video.

**SAY** • The Dye family left their home, friends, and church in Kentucky to obey God to move to the big city of Atlanta to start a new church. They got to know the city just by talking to people wherever they went, even at the park. But they needed another way to meet even more people who needed to know Jesus was real. Let's pray for the Dye family as they obey God in telling the people of Atlanta about Jesus.

- "Casting the Dye Part 3" missions video
- "Missions Prayer Cards" printable, 1 per child

## Play musical chairs

Use one less chair than the number of children in your group to form an outward facing circle. Play the key passage song or unit theme song as preschoolers walk around the chairs. Stop the music. Preschoolers must all sit in a chair. The child without a chair gets to ask the big picture question. Lead the group to respond with the answer.

**SAY** • Jesus died to keep us safe from sin and death. We can tell this good news to everyone. ***When should we tell others about Jesus? We should tell others about Jesus all the time.***

- chairs
- "To Live Is Christ" song (optional)
- "Don't Stop" song (optional)