God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Bible Verse

“Believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will realize that we can share the good news about Jesus in difficult times, teach Pockets that God protects us in scary times, and discover that there is good news about Jesus in any circumstance.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

Paul shares the good news in a stormy sea.

Acts 27:13-44

Paul, arrested in Jerusalem for preaching the Gospel, was sent by ship to Rome, but the journey was complicated by a terrible storm. We don’t know exactly what the sailors did with the ropes to try to keep the ship together, but they may have wrapped them around the hull in an attempt to keep it from coming apart. After nearly two weeks of this storm, all aboard the ship must have felt certain that they were going to die. But the message Paul received from God via an angel told them otherwise. Paul was obviously confident that they would all be saved.

Once the ship had run aground and began breaking up, the soldiers realized that their prisoners might escape as they all abandoned ship and tried to get to shore. The soldiers’ intent to kill the prisoners was typical because if a guard allowed a prisoner to escape, the guard’s own life was taken. However, the centurion in charge, likely out of gratitude to Paul for his prayers and encouragement, put an end to the soldiers’ plan. They all reached land safely, just as the angel had told Paul they would!

Prayer

- How does knowing that God has good plans for your life help you during times of crisis?
- Pray: Lord, as I trust you in every season of life—in peacetime, in a storm, and in every time in between—help me communicate that confidence to my students by…
Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

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*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.
Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Butterfly Name Tags” handout (p. 26), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned…” activities. Use questions such as “What skills help you tell others about Jesus?” and “How did you encourage others to talk about Jesus?”
- Say: **Today we are going to learn that God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made in the first lesson, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable patterns.
- Direct the children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What are some things that make it hard to share the good news about Jesus?” or “When have you been afraid?”

**Option 1: Stormy Weather**

SUPPLIES: toy boat, drinking straws, dishpan, water, liquid soap

Before class, fill a dishpan three-quarters full of water. Add a few drops of liquid soap, and then place a small toy boat in the water. Show children how to place one end of their drinking straws in the water and blow to make waves. Children can also blow on the boat and make storm sounds as they play. Explain that even in the middle of a storm, Paul continued to tell the good news about Jesus.

**Option 2: Fan-tastic!**

SUPPLIES: crayons, glitter glue, masking tape, craft sticks, paper plates

Set out crayons, masking tape, glitter glue, large craft sticks, and paper plates. Have children decorate one side of the paper plates with black clouds and bolts of lightning. Instruct them to decorate the other side of the plates to look like angels, using the glitter glue for a sparkly effect. Then help children securely tape a craft stick to the “stormy” side of the plate, so they can use the stick as a handle. Tell children that Paul even told people about Jesus in the middle of a storm! When children have made...
enough fans for each child in class to have one, set the fans aside until the “Setting the Stage” activity.

**Option 3: The Churning Ocean**

**SUPPLIES:** heavy cream, small plastic jar, salt, marble

Fill a small, clean plastic peanut butter jar half full of heavy cream. Add a dash of salt and a clean marble before sealing the lid tightly. Have children sit in a circle and roll the jar back and forth, watching the cream churn and thicken. Encourage them to keep the jar moving so the cream will turn into butter. As children roll the jar, explain that Paul told people the good news about Jesus even during a wild ship ride on a churning ocean! When it’s time to clean up, remove the marble and then place the jar in a refrigerator or in a cooler filled with ice.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

**Pick Up Our Toys**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

Lead children in singing “Pick Up Our Toys” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Skip to My Lou.” Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.

We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys.  
We will pick up our toys.  
And put them all away.

There’s [name] picking up toys.  
There’s [name] picking up toys.  
There’s [name] picking up toys.  
Putting them all away.

(Repeat.)

**Bible Story Time**

**Setting the Stage**

**SUPPLIES:** fans from Option 2

Clear a large area in the center of the room. Gather the children together and ask them each to choose a partner. Have each pair bring a chair to the center of the room and set the chairs in a random
arrangement. This will create an obstacle course through which they will pass the *smile beach ball*. Ask the partners to form a circle around the chairs and sit down on the floor. If your classroom is small, with only a few tables and chairs, just have children pair up and sit around the perimeter of the room. Hold up the *smile beach ball* and say: **Let’s pretend this ball is a ship. We’ll call it the Good News Smiley Ship. It is sailing across the ocean to tell others the good news about Jesus. We’ll pretend that the area inside our circle is called the Obstacle Ocean. Now, all we need are some sailors and some wind.**

Give one partner in each pair a fan created in Option 2. Assure children that everyone will get a turn to be the wind as well as the sailors. Ask those with fans to begin waving them up and down, and say: **I feel the wind beginning to blow. Do you think there’s a storm brewing? I think I hear thunder! Are you ready to set sail for the other side of the ocean?** Hand the *smile beach ball* to one of the sailors, and instruct him or her to roll it gently across the floor to another sailor when you give the signal to begin.

Ask: • **What do you think will happen when the Good News Smiley Ship begins to sail across the Obstacle Ocean?** (It will bump into the leg of a chair; it will go the wrong way.) • **What will make it hard to reach the other side?** (It will hit the chairs and go in a different direction; it could bounce back to where it started.)

Begin the game. After a few minutes, have the partners switch. Play until everyone has had a chance to roll the ball through the Obstacle Ocean. Collect the fans and then say: **Our Good News Smiley Ship ran into a few problems as it tried to sail across the Obstacle Ocean—just as you thought it would.**

Hold up the *smile beach ball* and ask: • **What did you notice about the smiley face on our ship as it tossed and turned through the Obstacle Ocean?** (It always looked happy; it kept smiling.)

Say: The smiley face looked happy even when those hard chair legs got in the way and tried to stop it. Show me the kind of face we should have when we tell others the good news about God. Let the children show you big smiles, and then say: **Wow! Your smiles look like the face on our Good News Smiley Ship! You remind me of Paul, too. He had a smile on his face because he was happy to tell others about Jesus. In our Bible story today, we’ll hear how a scary storm got in Paul’s way like the chairs got in the way of our Good News Smiley Ship. Instead of putting a frown on his face, Paul prayed, and God helped him through the obstacles. Let’s find out how God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**

Put the *smile beach ball* away. Have everyone put a smile on their face and repeat the words, “Bring the good news,” as the class returns the chairs and moves on to the next activity.

**Bible Song and Prayer Time**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player

Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the “Good News” stamp inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark Acts 27:13-44 in the Bible you’ll be using.
Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out surprise cards. Don’t look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead the children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.

**SING**

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.

Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the newspaper stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: **[Name] was our special Bible person today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.**

Let’s say a special prayer now and ask God to help us obey him. I’ll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, “God, help us share the good news about Jesus.”

Pass around the basket or box. When you’ve collected everyone’s surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead the children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today to share the good news about Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

**BIBLE POINT**

**Hear and Tell the Bible Story**

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player, fans from Option 2, butter from Option 3, bread, plastic knives

Gather children in a circle, and spread the Learning Mat: Good News! Paul’s Missionary Journeys on the floor. Hold up the Bible and say: **Today our Bible story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our story. As we look at the map, we can see that Paul was a busy traveler! Let’s see if you can remember what happened at each place on the map.**

Give the bubble ball to the child on your right. Have him or her roll the ball gently toward the Learning Mat. When the ball
Paul Shares the Good News in a Stormy Sea

Paul told people everywhere the good news about Jesus. Lots of people listened and believed, but some people didn’t believe. They didn’t like hearing about Jesus. So they got Paul in trouble! They accused him of taking a stranger into the Temple and making it dirty. That was a very serious crime! If Paul were found guilty, he could be put to death! So Paul decided to go to the highest judge of all—Caesar! But to get to Rome, where Caesar lived, Paul had to take a long journey on a ship.

So Paul boarded a ship with many other prisoners. Shortly after the ship left, a terrible, terrible storm struck! Use your fans to help me make a windy storm. Pause. The boat shot up on the crest of one wave and crashed down to the bottom of the next wave. As the boat pitched through the stormy sea, the prisoners rolled from one side of the boat to the other. Let’s roll from side to side, too. Pause. The sailors were so afraid they tied ropes around the ship to keep it from breaking apart. The storm continued for days and days! To see what it might have felt like, stand up, close your eyes, and spin around for a minute. Then lie down and listen while I play some storm noises.

After children have spun for about 30 seconds, have them lie down and listen to “Stormy Seas” (track 22) on the CD for 10 to 15 seconds.

Turn off the CD player, and have children sit up. Say: During the storm, an angel came to Paul and told him that everyone would make it to land safely. Show me the angel side of your fans. So Paul told everyone that they didn’t need to be afraid. He trusted that God would keep them all safe. Fourteen days after the storm started, the sailors became even more frightened. They decided to try to escape in the lifeboat and leave the prisoners to die when the ship sank. But Paul told them not to escape—and the men obeyed! Then Paul told everyone to have something to eat so they could stay alive. He took some bread, thanked God for it, and then everyone ate. Let’s enjoy our bread, too.

If you did Option 3, give each child a slice of bread, allow children to spread the fresh butter on the slice, and say a quick prayer of thanks for the bread. While they’re eating, continue: Soon the sailors saw land! Everyone got excited, hoping they’d be safe and dry. But the ship got stuck on a sandbar and couldn’t make it to the land. So the prisoners, sailors, and guards swam to the island or floated there on pieces of wood. Just as the angel had said, they all made it safely.

Ask: • How do you think the people on the ship felt during the storm? (Scared; seasick.)

• How did God keep Paul safe? (He led them to land; he sent an angel; he made sure the boat didn’t crash.)

• What was the good news that Paul told the men during the storm? (God would keep them from being hurt; they would make it to land and not die.)

• Do you think the storm got in the way of Paul telling the good news about Jesus? Explain. (No, because he told the men on the ship; yes, because it made it hard to get to the place he wanted to go.)
Lesson 13

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6

Say: The storm got in Paul’s way, but it didn’t stop him from telling the good news. God wants us to share the good news about Jesus even when things get in our way. Do you remember what the good news is? Let’s review our Bible verse for today, which also comes from Acts, in 16:31a: “Believe in the Lord Jesus.” The good news is Jesus! If we are sorry for our sins and believe in Jesus, God will protect us and help us get through whatever obstacles we have to overcome, and we will live forever with him someday.

Now let’s play a game to see what it might have felt like for Paul on the ship.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: bedsheet, tape, CD player

Form pairs and have partners stand together in a line at one end of the room. Spread an old bedsheet in front of the children. Tape the Learning Mat: Good News! Paul’s Missionary Journeys to the opposite wall, and place the “Good News” stamp and ink pad on a chair nearby.

Say: Paul went through a stormy ride to tell people the good news about Jesus. This game will let you take a stormy ride, too! One person will sit on the end of the sheet, facing the line. The rest of us will pull that person to the Learning Mat. There, he or she may use the “Good News” stamp to mark some places where Paul told people the good news. Then we’ll all skip back to this side of the room and give someone else a stormy ride. Ready? Go!

While children are enjoying their stormy rides, play “Stormy Seas” (track 22) on the CD.

When everyone has had a ride, turn off the CD player and gather children near the Learning Mat.

Ask: • What important thing did Paul do? (Told people about Jesus; started churches; helped people know about God.)

• Where can you travel to tell people the good news? (To school; to my friend’s house; home; anywhere.)

• Why do you want to share the good news about Jesus? (Because I want my friends to know him; because that’s what makes God happy; because Jesus is great!)

Say: God wants us to share the good news about Jesus. Sometimes it may be hard, but we can share the good news in any situation. We can even tell Pockets the good news right here and now! Pockets! Pockets!

If you have more than 10 children in class, you may want to set up two lines and use two bedsheets.
Too Scared to Share

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.

Pockets: (Enters cautiously, looking around in a frightened way.) Is it over?
Teacher: Is what over, Pockets?
Pockets: You know, the (whispering) storm.
Teacher: Oh! You mean our Bible story!
Pockets: No! I mean the wind, and the rain, and the thunder...
Teacher: Pockets, there wasn’t a storm. That was a game the children were playing! Let’s tell Pockets about our Bible story today! (Have children tell that Paul shared the good news about Jesus in the middle of a terrible storm.)
Pockets: Wasn’t Paul afraid?
Teacher: Maybe, but when the angel told Paul he would be safe, Paul didn’t need to be afraid anymore. He trusted God to keep him safe.
Pockets: But when I’m scared, I just want to curl up in a ball and hide. I might be too afraid to tell the good news.
Teacher: Pockets, do you know that God is watching over you…even when you’re afraid?
Pockets: That’s good news!
Teacher: Yes, it is. I’m sorry we scared you, Pockets. Next time you’re feeling scared, remember the good news about Jesus and share it with a friend.
Pockets: I will.
Teacher: Feeling better?
Pockets: Yeah! I’m feeling great because (jumping and bouncing away with a singsong voice) Jesus cares for me! Good news, good news, Jesus cares for me.
Lesson 13

**Good News**

**SUPPLIES:** bedsheet, CD player

Have children stand in a circle. Spread a bedsheet in the middle of the circle, and encourage children to hold the edges tightly. Say:

Paul endured lots of storms while he told people about Jesus. He was beaten, arrested, put in prison, and escaped death many times. But nothing could keep him from telling the good news about Jesus. God wants us to share the good news about Jesus, too. Let’s sing a song and make a storm to remind us that nothing can stop us from telling the good news of Jesus!

Lead children in singing “The Good News” (track 20) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush” with the CD. While children sing, have them shake the bedsheet to make it “stormy.” On the last line of each verse, help children hold the sheet taut and smooth.

**SING**

God wants us all to share the news,
Share the news,
Share the news.

God wants us all to share the news,
All the good news about Jesus!

Paul was sent out to tell the world,
Tell the world,
Tell the world.

Paul was sent out to tell the world
All the good news about Jesus!

Lydia heard and she believed,
She believed,
She believed.

Lydia heard and she believed
All the good news about Jesus!

Priscilla and Aquila knew.
Yes, they knew.
Yes, they knew.

Priscilla and Aquila knew
All the good news about Jesus!

In a stormy sea, Paul shared the news,
Shared the news,
Shared the news.

In a stormy sea, Paul shared the news,
All the good news about Jesus!

Now you and I can tell the world,
Tell the world,
Tell the world.

Now you and I can tell the world
All the good news about Jesus!

For more fun, inflate the smile beach ball and let kids bounce it around on the bedsheet as they sing the song. You’ll need to retrieve the ball if it goes sailing off the sheet, and toss it back on.
When the song ends, turn off the CD player, and put the sheet away. Pray: **Dear God, thank you for the good news that Jesus loves us and takes away our sins. Help us spread the good news about Jesus everywhere we go. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.**

**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.
**Lively Learning: Wild Waves**

Before this activity, blow up and tie off at least one blue, green, or white balloon for each child. Have children scatter around the room and sit down holding their balloons. When you say “Go,” have children bop and blow the balloons around the room. When you say, “Good news!” instruct children to grab a balloon and think of some good news about Jesus. Call on two or three children to share their good news, and then say, “Go” again. Repeat the game several times, and then allow children to shout “Good news!” and sit on their balloons to pop them.

**Make to Take: Storm Prints**

Before class, cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Set out construction paper, black crayons, and watercolor markers. Have each child draw a picture of a boat with a brown or black crayon. Encourage children to color heavily. Then have children use watercolor markers to complete a sea scene. When their pictures are done, allow children to create a storm by misting the pictures with a spray bottle. Watch how the ship remains unchanged, while the rest of the colors blend and run together. Remind children that God protected Paul in a scary time so he could keep sharing the good news about Jesus.

**Treat to Eat: Stormy-Sea Gelatin**

Help children spoon cubes of blue gelatin into clear plastic cups. Allow them to spread frothy waves of whipped cream on the top of each cup and then float “ships” on top, using either a vanilla wafer or a slice of orange as the ship. As children eat, remind them that God is with us in any storm so we can share the good news about Jesus.

**Story Picture: Paul’s Shipwreck**

Hand each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned…” handout. Allow children to use glitter glue to make raindrops on the boat. Remind children that Paul told people about Jesus, even in the middle of a storm!
Verse to Learn
“Believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31a).

Ask Me...
- What good news did Paul tell the sailors during the storm?
- What can you remember when you’re having a hard time?
- How can our family help someone who is going through a “stormy” time?

Family Fun
- Help your child use squeezable fabric paints to decorate a plain black umbrella with pictures of good things God has done for your family. Be sure to let the paint dry for at least two or three days before you fold the umbrella and put it away. During a storm, you can use this special umbrella to share the good news about Jesus!
- Lay a half-gallon milk carton on its side, and then cut it in half to make two boats. “Sail” your boats in the “stormy” waters of a swimming pool, pond, or lake.

Paul’s Shipwreck (Acts 27:13-44)

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