

"These people are servants of the Most High God! They are proclaiming a way of salvation to you!" (Acts 16:17b)

Shipwrecked – Acts 27:1-44

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: PROCLAIM

The apostle Paul made many missionary journeys. Through Paul's travels and his efforts to share the good news with everyone he met, the word of God spread and the early church continued to grow.

In today's Bible story, Paul is being transported to Rome as a prisoner. However, Paul was not destined for smooth sailing. The ship Paul was sailing on was delayed in its journey by poor wind conditions. At one point Paul warned the captain that it was not safe to sail and if they were to proceed their ship and cargo would be badly damaged. Paul was offering advice based on his years of sailing experience. Paul's advice was ignored, however, and the ship sailed on.

Eventually the ship encountered hurricane force winds and was in such danger of sinking that the crew began to throw cargo overboard to lighten the ship. After several days of battling the fierce storm, the crew gave up all hope of being saved.

Paul, on the other hand, knew God intended for him to reach Rome in order to help spread the good news there. He reported to the crew and other passengers he had been visited by an angel who assured him the lives of everyone on the ship would be saved. Paul not only had courage, but he encouraged those around him!

Though you may not be traveling across the country or sailing in a ship to new destinations like Paul, you are on a missionary journey. Every week when you teach Sunday school, you are helping share God's love with others. God is accomplishing great things through you!

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This month's unit is about proclaiming the good news of God's love. Paul proclaimed a message of hope when the people on the ship with him felt hopeless. What words of encouragement need to be shared this week to help spread hope to your group?

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, boat*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21). Place a boat inside the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster, and invite the children to wonder about what the word *proclaim* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are hearing stories about a man named Paul. In today's story, Paul is on a boat headed to the city of Rome.

ASK: What do you think will happen in today's story?

- We recommend reading a story each week from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary kid to read, "Shipwrecked" (pp. 296–7), from the storybook.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for encouragers. Help us encourage others, too. Amen.

Shipwrecked – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Shipwrecked" (Reproducible 13A) for each preschooler.*

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture. Invite elementary kids to help the preschoolers follow the directions on the pages.

SAY: Paul was arrested. As a Roman citizen, he was allowed to ask to be taken to the city of Rome for his trial. He had to get on a ship to sail to Rome. While on the ship, the boat was in a shipwreck!

Sailing to Rome – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, pens or pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Sailing to Rome" (Reproducible 13B) for each child.*

SAY: Paul was arrested. As a Roman citizen, he was allowed to ask to be taken to the city of Rome for his trial. He had to get on a ship to sail to Rome. Solve the maze to help Paul and the ship get to Rome.

- Invite the kids to solve the maze.
- When they are finished, they can color the picture.

Paul Word Search – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, CEB Bible

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Paul Word Search" (Reproducible 13C) for each child.

SAY: This month, we learned a lot about Paul and the message of Jesus' love he proclaimed with the help of friends.

- Invite the kids to use the word bank to find and circle words from this month's stories.

May Stars and Constellations – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "May Stars and Constellations" (Reproducible 13D) for each child.

- Hand out copies of Reproducible 13D.
- Invite the kids to look over the stars, constellations, and star pictures on the page.

ASK: Do you recognize any of the star pictures on the page?

- Invite the kids to share any star pictures they recognize. This sheet shows the same stars and constellations that we saw in May. Use this opportunity to see if any kids in your class have tried to find star pictures in the sky.

SAY: This fall, we began looking at the night sky to see star pictures. If you are having trouble finding these shapes, here's a tip.

- Point to Orion on the star chart.

SAY: Orion is the figure of a man. His belt has three bright stars that are pretty easy to find in the winter sky. If you can find the belt, you might be able to find some of the other stars and constellations on the sheet.

- Invite the kids to take the sheets home and look at the sky.

Wonder Time

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages from the Reproducible Kids' Book, 13F–13G. Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What do you think the ship's crew thought about Paul's proclamation?

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 13 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18). Cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3).

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat.

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *proclaim*.

- Show the children the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Proclaim means to share out loud what you believe about your faith.

- Point to the portrait of Paul.

WONDER together:

- What do you say to your friends when they need encouragement?
- What makes you feel hopeful?
- How will your actions proclaim God's love?
- Add the portrait of the ship's crew to the poster.
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the boat.

WONDER: Why do you think there is a boat in our Wonder Box this week?

Experience Wonder

Messages of Hope (Art)

Supplies: paper bowls or cups, measuring cups, water, cornstarch, food coloring, paintbrushes

SAY: Paul encouraged the crew and the passengers when everyone was scared. He told them that God would keep them safe. This made the people hopeful for safety. Sharing hope with others is an important part of proclaiming the good news of Jesus' love. We're going to make sidewalk chalk paint to write messages of hope for our congregation.

- Give each child a bowl or cup.
- Invite the kids to measure out and mix two tablespoons of water with two tablespoons of cornstarch in their bowls.
- Encourage them to add eight drops of food coloring into their bowls to make chalk paint.
- If you are able, invite the kids to make more than one color.
- Invite the kids to take their chalk paint and a brush outdoors to paint messages of hope for your congregation.

Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Acts 16:17b. Find it in your Bibles.

ASK: Is the Book of Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is Acts located in the New Testament? (*right after the Gospel books*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*16*) What is the verse number? (*17*)

- Gather the kids around the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster. Read it together.

ASK: What is the reference for our verse? (*Acts 16:17*)

SAY: Our Bible verse is from the story we heard today. Paul and Silas healed the woman and this is what she says!

Peaceful Place

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Leader Guide—p. 115; Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook; suggested book: Say Something, by Peter H. Reynolds; paper; crayons or markers; stationary; pens or pencils

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Encourage the children to color the Unit 3 Faith Word coloring page.
- Invite the children to write letters like Paul did.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Proclamation Through Preaching

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us connect to and spend time with God. It doesn't have to be the same thing every time, but it can be. A spiritual practice can be praying silently or out loud, dancing, singing, walking, breathing, drawing, chanting, or speaking blessings.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice and invite them to repeat after you:
 - LEADER SAYS: My voice is important.
 - CLASS SAYS: My voice is important.
 - LEADER SAYS: My voice matters.
 - CLASS SAYS: My voice matters.
 - LEADER SAYS: Thank you, God, for my voice.
 - CLASS SAYS: Thank you, God, for my voice.

PRAY: Dear God, help us proclaim your love in all we say and do. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child on the hand as you say this blessing: "You are important. You matter."

Family Spiritual Practice

SAY: Let's take a look at your Take-Home Pages for today (*Reproducibles 13F–13G*). Ask your family to participate in this week's spiritual practice and talk about how to prepare for the unexpected as a family.

Supplemental Activities

Preschoolers – Sink or Float

Supplies: water table or bin, water, items that sink, items that float

SAY: Some things float on the water and some things sink in water.

ASK: What do you think these items will do? Will they sink or float?

- Invite the kids to test their hypotheses by placing the items in the water.
- Encourage the kids to play in the water.

- Keep playing until you are ready to move to the next activity.

SAY: When the boat Paul was on get shipwrecked, all of the people swam safely to shore just like Paul said they would.

Early Elementary – Sea Storm

Supplies: soft ball, sheet or blanket

Prepare Ahead: Spread a sheet out in a clear area. Place the ball in the center of the sheet.

- Have the children sit in a circle around the sheet.

ASK: What does a wave at the ocean look like?

- Encourage the kids to make wave movements with their bodies.

SAY: Waves are smooth and dependable until a storm moves in. Then they get big and sporadic. We're going to make our sheet move like a sea storm! The ball in the middle will represent Paul's ship.

ASK: What do you think that sea storm looked like?

- Invite the kids to hold onto the edge of the sheet and make sea storm waves.
- Then encourage the kids to make calm sea waves.
- Keep alternating between calm waves and the sea storm until you are ready to move on.

Older Elementary – Watercolor Painting

Supplies: card stock, watercolors, paintbrushes, water, cups

Prepare Ahead: Put a little water in the cups for the children to rinse their paintbrushes in.

- Give each child a piece of card stock, watercolors, a paintbrush, and a cup of water.

ASK: What have you learned about proclaiming and proclamation this month?

SAY: Our words and actions teach people what is important to us. Paul proclaimed the good news of Jesus' love.

ASK: What do your words and actions proclaim?

- Invite the kids to paint a picture. It can be of their proclamations, or one of the stories they heard this month in Sunday school.
- Set the paintings aside to dry.
- When they are dry, encourage the kids to talk about their art with the group.

Intergenerational Activity – Paul Review

Note: Each week we will feature a special intergenerational activity. Plan to invite youth and adults to join you for these activities.

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, beanbag

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Paul Review" (Reproducible 13E) for each person.

- Have the group stand in a circle.

SAY: We have learned a lot of things about Paul this month. Let's take some time to review what we know about Paul.

- Show the group the beanbag.

SAY: I am going to share one thing I remember about Paul and then I will gently toss the beanbag to someone else. That person will share one thing he or she remembers about Paul and then toss the beanbag on to someone else and so forth. Let's find out how much we remember about Paul. Oh, one other thing. When you toss the beanbag, you must toss it under one leg.

- Play the game, making sure everyone gets a turn. If needed, ask questions to help the group remember what has been taught this month.
- Continue playing until no one can think of any new information about Paul to share.
- Have the group sit down.
- Give each child a copy of "Paul Review" and a pencil.

SAY: We have been talking about Paul and how he change his heart and life. I invite you to spend some time reflecting on what that means to you personally. You will not be asked to share your answers. These are your own personal reflections.

- Give the group time to reflect and write (or draw).

PRAY: God, thank you for loving us. Change our hearts and help us to change our lives and live as you want us to live. Amen.