

## Paul and the shipwreck

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Acts 27. If you want to read it online just go to this link: <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage in the search engine.

### Start

What would you say being brave means?

In our story for today, we see how Paul and his friends had to be brave when things got scary.

### Bible story

Paul had to make a very important journey to Rome. He was going there with some other prisoners because he was a Roman citizen and when he had been arrested for following Jesus, he had said he wanted to have his trial in Rome which you could ask for if you were a Roman citizen like Paul.

Paul and his friends got on to a ship ready to make the journey. The person in charge was called Julius. This was going to be a long journey and there were different places where the ship stopped along the way. Because Julius liked Paul, he allowed him to see some of his friends at one of these stops. Eventually, everyone got on to another ship ready for the next part of the journey.

Julius was keen to get moving quicker. The journey had been taking longer than he had wanted. He was getting everyone ready and looking forward to sailing again, but then Paul gave him a strong warning. He told Julius it was too dangerous to sail because now was the time of year when the weather was bad and that made sailing dangerous. But Julius didn't listen to Paul, he instead listened to the person who steered the ship and the ship's owner. Julius decided that the harbour the ship was in wasn't very good and it was better to find a different harbour. So they all set sail, but soon ran into trouble.

The weather turned really bad and the ship was rocked all over the place. It was scary. The sailors did everything they could to stop the ship sinking, including throwing cargo overboard, but the weather wasn't getting any better. Everyone was really scared, but then Paul spoke up about a special dream he had had the night before. He said, "You should have listened to me when I said not to sail, but you will be alright."

God sent an angel to tell me that all of us will be alright. We will lose the ship and everything on board, but everyone will be alright. Keep being brave.”

Eventually, the sailors were able to tell they were getting close to land because the water wasn't as deep. But they were still frightened and decided to try to keep themselves safe by going out in a lifeboat. Paul found out and told Julius who stopped it happening. Later on, people were able to see an island in the distance. They tried to get the ship towards the island, but it began to fall apart. The soldiers were worried that the prisoners would escape, but Julius stopped them from hurting anyone. He ordered that if anyone could swim they should jump into the sea and swim to the island and if anyone couldn't they could use spare parts from the ship or planks to help them get there safely. Everyone arrived safely on the island and nobody got hurt. It all happened because God kept everyone safe.

**How do you think Paul felt at the start when Julius ignored what he said?**

**How do you think Julius felt when he realised Paul was right?**

**How did Paul have to be brave in this story?**

**Why do you think God made sure even the Romans were kept safe in this story?**

**What do you think this story shows about what God is like?**

### **What to do next**

Below are some suggestions:

- You could chat about your favourite part of the story.
- You could re-create the story with lego/plasticine.
- You could act out the story.

You could pray together. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he can help us be brave when things are scary
- Pray for people who are scared. Ask Jesus to show them he can help them and to help them be brave.
- Pray for anything that scares you. Ask Jesus to help you.



The ship Paul was on got wrecked, but God made sure everyone got to dry land safely.

