



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 46



Shipwreck

Acts 27:1-28:10

Supplemental Scripture

Hebrews 12:1-3
Ecclesiastes 9:11
Philippians 1:27-30
Philippians 2:3-16

Memory Verse

I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself. Philippians 3:14 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

- Understand that Paul faced many obstacles
- Understand that Paul trusted God
- Understand that God saved an entire ship full
- Understand that God intended for Paul to go to Rome

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

What would you do if you started a race by moving off of the starting block too slowly or if you fumbled a bit when the baton was passed? When things just aren't going your way, what do you do? Do you just give up, blame everyone else, or complain? Do you use it as an excuse to win at all costs no matter who gets hurt or do you continue to trust God? Let's see what Paul did.

After Paul appeared before Governor Festus and King Agrippa, he was reunited with his friend (and the author of the book Acts) - Luke. They boarded a ship with other prisoners under the guard of a Roman commander named Julius. They headed out to sea with fair winds and arrived seventy miles away, in Sidon, the next day.*

Julius, the Roman commander, was kind to Paul. He allowed Paul's friends to visit him in Sidon and to give him things that he needed. But Sidon was not their stopping point, so they set sail again. They took a calm route along the coast of Cyprus and then headed out to open sea. They docked at Myra in the region of Lycia and changed ships there for one that would take them all the way to Italy. They set sail again, but "moved along slowly for many days" because the wind would not allow them to stay on course. (Acts 27:6 NirV) Sailing from there on was not easy. The wind made travel difficult. They should have already reached the coast of Italy*, but "sailing had already become dangerous." (Acts 27:9 NirV) By now it was around the end of September or the first of October - the stormy season.*

"Paul gave them a warning. 'Men,' he said, 'I can see that our trip is going to be dangerous. The ship and everything in it will be lost. Our own lives will be in danger also.'" (Acts 27:9b-10 NirV) The commander trusted the advice of the ship's owner and its captain over Paul because the bay where they were sheltered was open and not safe to harbor in for the winter months. When "a gentle south wind began to blow they thought that this was what they had been waiting for. So they pulled up the anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete." (Acts 27:13 NirV) But the gentle south wind had been misleading. A "nor'easter" blew in with the force of a hurricane. The winds drove the ship, which was beaten by the storm. In an effort to

Application

At the beginning of the lesson I asked what you do when things aren't going your way. It is hard to keep going when you focus on the obstacles, but when you think about the finish line and the prize, it doesn't seem so impossible.

Even in the case of imprisonment, Paul could say, "I move on toward the goal to win the prize. God has appointed me to win it. The heavenly prize is Christ Jesus himself." (Philippians 3:14 NIV) Paul knew where he was headed and the obstacles didn't seem to slow him down.

Are you letting obstacles slow you down? Will you commit to keep moving toward the prize? And if you have never joined the race, what's stopping you?

save themselves, the crew threw the ship's contents and gear overboard. The storm was terrible and the men went days without eating. Paul criticized the men for not listening to him, but he also encouraged them to be brave. "Not one of you will die. Only the ship will be destroyed." (Acts 27:22 NIV) How could Paul be so sure? He told those on board that he belonged to and served God. He also told them that God had sent an angel to give him the message, "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) There were 276 people on board! Paul again encouraged the men to be brave, assuring them that he firmly believed that God would keep His promise.

After two weeks (fourteen nights) of traveling in the storm, the ship Paul was traveling in was still being driven across the Adriatic Sea between Greece and Italy. The crew thought they might be close to land and they began to measure how deep the water was. They dropped four anchors and waited for daylight. They had not eaten much in those two weeks because they had been busy taking care of the ship, so Paul encouraged them all to eat. Then they threw all of the extra grain overboard.

At daylight, "they saw a bay with a sandy beach. They didn't recognize the place. But they decided to run the ship onto the beach if they could." (Acts 27:39 NIV) They cut the anchors and lifted the sails, but instead of running the ship into the beach, it hit a sandbar. The waves of the storm broke the ship apart. Those who could swim jumped overboard and swam to shore. Those who couldn't, held onto "boards or other pieces of the ship. That is how everyone reached land safely." (Acts 27:44 NIV)

Once they were safe on shore, they found out that they were on the island of Malta. "The people of the island were unusually kind." (Acts 28:1 NIV) They welcomed everyone and cared for them. While they were on the island, Paul ministered to the people there. He visited them and healed them. And the people of the island honored them in many ways. When they were ready to sail, they gave them all the supplies they needed to make it to Rome.

*Jamieson, Robert; A.R. Fausset; and David Brown. "Commentary on Acts 27." . Blue Letter Bible. 19 Feb 2000. 2009. 23 Oct 2009. <http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2953&commInfo=6&topic=Acts&ar=Act_27_1>

Next Week
Finally . . . Rome
Acts 28:11-31

Preschool Lesson

As Paul was getting ready to sail for Rome, he met up with an old friend of his - Luke. They boarded a ship with other prisoners and were guarded by a Roman commander named Julius. Julius was kind to Paul.

By now it was around the end of September or the first of October, and it was the stormy season. Their sailing was difficult because of strong winds.

Paul was no sailor, but he could see what was happening with the weather. He warned them, “Our trip is going to be dangerous. The ship and everything in it will be lost. Our own lives will be in danger also.” (Acts 27:9b-10 Nlrv) But the commander didn’t trust Paul’s warning. And when a gentle wind began to blow, they thought that this was what they had been waiting for. They pulled up the anchor and started sailing again. But the gentle wind had tricked them. A very strong, cold wind from the north blew. It was as strong as a hurricane. The winds pushed the ship. The crew tried to save the boat and threw the ship’s contents and gear overboard. The storm was terrible and the men went days without eating.

Paul encouraged the crew to be brave. “Not one of you will die. Only the ship will be destroyed.” (Acts 27:22 Nlrv) How could Paul know this? Paul belonged to and served God. God had sent an angel to give him the message, “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 Nlrv) There were 276 people on board and none of them would die! Paul again encouraged the men to be brave. He told them that he was sure that God would keep His promise.

After two weeks of traveling in the storm, they had still not arrived in Italy. The crew thought they might be close to land of some kind and they began to measure how deep the water was. They dropped four anchors and waited for daylight. They had not eaten much in those two weeks because they had been busy taking care of the ship, so Paul encouraged them all to eat. Then they threw all of the extra grain overboard.

At daylight, “they saw a bay with a sandy beach.” (Acts 27:39 Nlrv) They cut the anchors and lifted the sails, but hit a sandbar. The waves of the storm broke the ship apart. Those who could swim jumped overboard and swam to shore. Those who couldn’t, held onto “boards or other pieces of the ship. That is how everyone reached land safely.” (Acts 27:44 Nlrv)

Once they were safe on shore, they found out that they were on the island of Malta. “The people of the island were unusually kind.” (Acts 28:1 Nlrv) They welcomed everyone and cared for them. While they were on the island, Paul helped the people there. He visited them and healed them. And the people of the island honored them in many ways. When they were ready to sail, they gave them all the supplies they needed to make it to Rome.

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Run relays with obstacles. Make the finish line very visible and very inviting. Practice a phrase of the memory verse with each relay until each student can say it.

Sing “With Jesus in Your Boat,” and “Have Faith in God.”

Compasses are used for navigation. Make compasses or bring one to class.

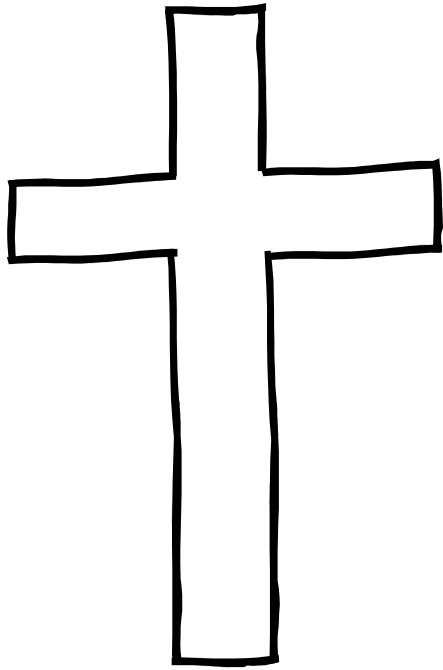
Maps are also used for navigation. Be sure to review the route Paul’s ship took to get to Italy.

Practice tying knots.

Make books about weather.

Read the memory verse in several translations. The Amplified version says, “I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.” (Philippians 3:13-14) Discuss the meaning of these verses and how to apply them to your life.

As you continue memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3, compare these verses with the memory verse and the example of Paul’s life.



I move on toward the goal
to win the prize.

God has appointed me
to win it.

The heavenly prize
is Christ Jesus himself.

Philippians 3:14

Racing Riddles

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi - the book of Philippians. In it he talked about how he lived his life. What did he say?

Color the spaces to find the answer:

A 1, 6, 9, 16, 17, 21

B 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25

C 1, 5, 11, 14,

A	N	M	O	V	E	I	O	N	G	T	O	W	A	R	D	S	D	T	H	E	F	G	O	A	L
B	L	H	T	T	O	S	U	W	I	N	F	T	H	E	V	U	P	R	I	Z	E	L	E	D	R
C	F	T	H	E	A	P	R	I	Z	E	H	I	S	B	C	H	R	I	S	T	J	E	S	U	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25



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A	M	O	V	E		O	N		T	O	W	A	R	D		T	H	E		G	O	A	L		
B			T	O			W	I	N		T	H	E			P	R	I	Z	E					
C	T	H	E		P	R	I	Z	E		I	S		C	H	R	I	S	T	J	E	S	U	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25



Word Search

e a s m e r h p r i p h g i s
r r t a n s t o k i l l o h r
t e o l t e s t i n y a i i a
s h i p w r e c k n l p w l s
s t t s e f p l a u w u c e e
d a u l t m p m e r r a e f a
u e y c a r i p w n e p t r c
a w u y o t r l d r t i a s p
l d n i k y l l a u s u n u s
c a w e m u a t b u a e j i l
t b o a r d s h i p e e k l r
e i l a r h n g h p r b i u l
t t i l s f i o n s o e l j l
a i e c c s a e r o n t g u i
u n u s u s u a l r e s a e j

board ship

Julius

Paul

Luke

bad weather

nor'easter

shipwreck

Malta

unusually kind

Word Search

e a s m e r h p r i p h g i s
r r t a n s t o k i l l o h r
t e o l t e s t i n y a i i a
s h i p w r e c k n l p w l s
s t t s e f p l a u w u c e e
d a u l t m p m e r r a e f a
u e y c a r i p w n e p t r c
a w u y o t r l d r t i a s p
l d n i k y l l a u s u n u s
c a w e m u a t b u a e j i l
t b o a r d s h i p e e k l r
e i l a r h n g h p r b i u l
t t i l s f i o n s o e l j l
a i e c c s a e r o n t g u i
u n u s u s u a l r e s a e j

board ship

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