

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 269: SHIPWRECK AT MALTA
ACTS 27:13-28:16

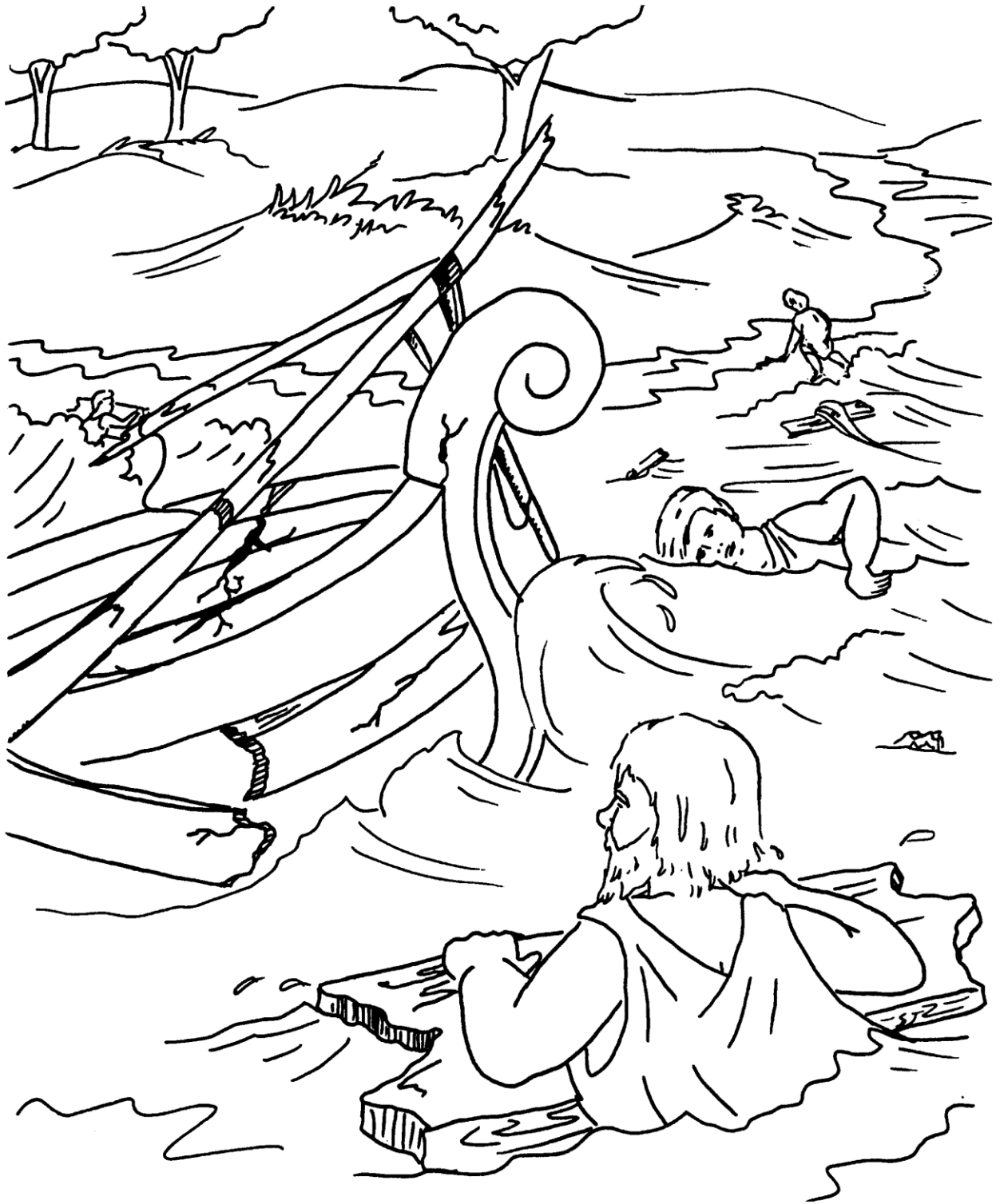
Then a good wind began to blow from the south. The men on the ship thought, "This is the wind we wanted, and now we have it!" So they pulled up the anchor. We sailed very close to the island of Crete. But then a very strong wind called the "Northeaster" came from across the island. This wind took the ship and carried it away. The ship could not sail against the wind, so we stopped trying and let the wind blow us. We went below a small island named Cauda. With the island protecting us from the wind, we were able to bring in the lifeboat, but it was very hard to do. After the men brought the lifeboat in, they tied ropes around the ship to hold it together. The men were afraid that the ship would hit the sandbanks of Syrtis. So they lowered the sail and let the wind carry the ship. The next day the storm was blowing against us so hard that the men threw some things out of the ship. A day later they threw out the ship's equipment. For many days we could not see the sun or the stars. The storm was very bad. We lost all hope of staying alive--we thought we would die. The men did not eat for a long time. Then one day Paul stood up before them and said, "Men, I told you not to leave Crete. You should have listened to me. Then you would not have all this trouble and loss. But now I tell you to be happy. None of you will die, but the ship will be lost. Last night an angel came to me from God--the God I worship and belong to. The angel said, 'Paul, don't be afraid! You must stand before Caesar. And God has given you this promise: He will save the lives of all those sailing with you.' So men, there is nothing to worry about. I trust God, and I am sure everything will happen just as his angel told me. But we will crash on an island." On the fourteenth night we were still being blown around in the Adriatic Sea. The sailors thought we were close to land. They threw a rope into the water with a weight on the end of it. They found that the water was 120 feet deep. They went a little farther and threw the rope in again. It was 90 feet deep. The sailors were afraid that we would hit the rocks, so they threw four anchors into the water. Then they prayed for daylight to come. Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat to the water. They wanted the other men to think that they were throwing more anchors from the front of the ship. But Paul told the army officer and the other soldiers, "If these men do not stay in the ship, you will lose all hope of survival." So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water. Just

before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, "For the past two weeks you have been waiting and watching. You have not eaten for 14 days. Now I beg you to eat something. You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads." After he said this, Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of them. He broke off a piece and began eating. All the men felt better and started eating too. (There were 276 people on the ship.) We ate all we wanted. Then we began making the ship lighter by throwing the grain into the sea. When daylight came, the sailors saw land, but they did not know what land it was. They saw a bay with a beach and wanted to sail the ship to the beach if they could. So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea. At the same time, they untied the ropes that were holding the rudders. Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces. The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of the prisoners could swim away and escape. But Julius the army officer wanted to let Paul live. So he did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. He told the people who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The others used wooden boards or pieces of the ship. And this is how all the people went safely to land. When we were safe on land, we learned that the island was called Malta. The people who lived there were very good to us. It was raining and very cold, so they built a fire and welcomed all of us. Paul gathered a pile of sticks for the fire. He was putting the sticks on the fire, and a poisonous snake came out because of the heat and bit him on the hand. When the people living on the island saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said, "This man must be a murderer! He did not die in the sea, but Justice does not want him to live." But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and was not hurt. The people thought he would swell up or fall down dead. They waited and watched him for a long time, but nothing bad happened to him. So they changed their opinion. They said, "He is a god!" There were some fields around that same area. They were owned by a man named Publius, the most important Roman official on the island. He welcomed us into his home and was very good to us. We stayed in his house for three days. Publius' father was very sick. He had a fever and dysentery, but Paul went to him and prayed for him. He laid his hands on the man and healed him. After this happened, all the other sick people on the island came to Paul, and he healed them too. The people on the island gave us many honors. And

after we had been there three months and were ready to leave, they provided us everything we needed for our trip. We got on a ship from Alexandria that had stayed on the island of Malta during the winter. On the front of the ship was the sign for the twin gods. We stopped at the city of Syracuse. We stayed there three days and then left. We came to the city of Rhegium. The next day a wind began to blow from the southwest, so we were able to leave. A day later we came to the city of Puteoli. We found some believers there, who asked us to stay with them a week. Finally, we came to Rome. The brothers and sisters in Rome heard about us and came out to meet us at the Market of Appius and at the Three Inns. When Paul saw these believers, he thanked God and felt encouraged. When we came to Rome, Paul was allowed to live alone. But a soldier stayed with him to guard him.

SHIPWRECK AT MALTA

(ACTS 27:13-28:16)



"While on the way to Rome, a great storm arose, and Paul and the other prisoners were commanded to jump overboard and swim to land."

Acts 27:13-28:16

269. SHIPWRECK AT MALTA

ACTS 27:13-28:16

MEMORY VERSE:

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him...." **PSALM 91:14**

Review Questions

True or False

1. When the men sailed, a wind called the Northeaster blew against them, and carried the ship away.
2. The storm blew the ship so hard that they began throwing things off of the ship.
3. Paul told the men that an angel came to him in a dream and told him that no one would die, and the ship would be saved.
4. When they crashed on the island of Malta, the soldiers' plan was to keep all of the prisoners alive so all of them could swim away and escape.
5. Julius the centurion wanted to save Paul and did not want to kill all the prisoners.

Questions

1. What was the weather like when they sailed in the ship?
2. Did the men think they were going to live or die on the ship?
3. How did Paul know that no one would die on the ship?
4. When the ship came to Malta and got stuck in the sand, what did the soldiers want to do with all the prisoners?
5. When Paul was putting wood on the fire on shore, what happened to him?
6. When Paul saw the people on the island who were sick, what did he do for them?
7. When Paul got to Rome, could he live in his own house? Who stayed with him?

Lesson 269 Craft

SHIPWRECK IN A BOTTLE

MATERIALS:

Empty water bottles (20oz kind)

Cooking Oil

Blue Food Coloring

Beads, glitter, small shells or plastic shells, metallic confetti works best

Hot Glue/Hot Glue gun (in the cabinets)

Have empty water bottles already filled halfway with blue-tinted water in them. Have the children choose some small things to put in them like pony beads, metallic confetti looks great, small plastic shells or glitter, etc. Don't use too much, but don't skimp either – about 3 tablespoons' worth of material is good.

After the children put their items in the water, top it off with cooking oil all the way to the top, then immediately glue the lids on with hot glue. Now you have a shipwreck in a bottle!

OPTIONAL CRAFT

Heart

You will need colored construction paper, scissors, and markers. Show your students how to fold a piece of paper to cut out a heart. Let them cut one out and write the memory verse on it. Have them decorate the hearts while you discuss what it means to “not lose heart.”

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the faithfulness of God. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.