

Paul Shipwreck Craft

They escaped all safe to land · Acts 27–28 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium

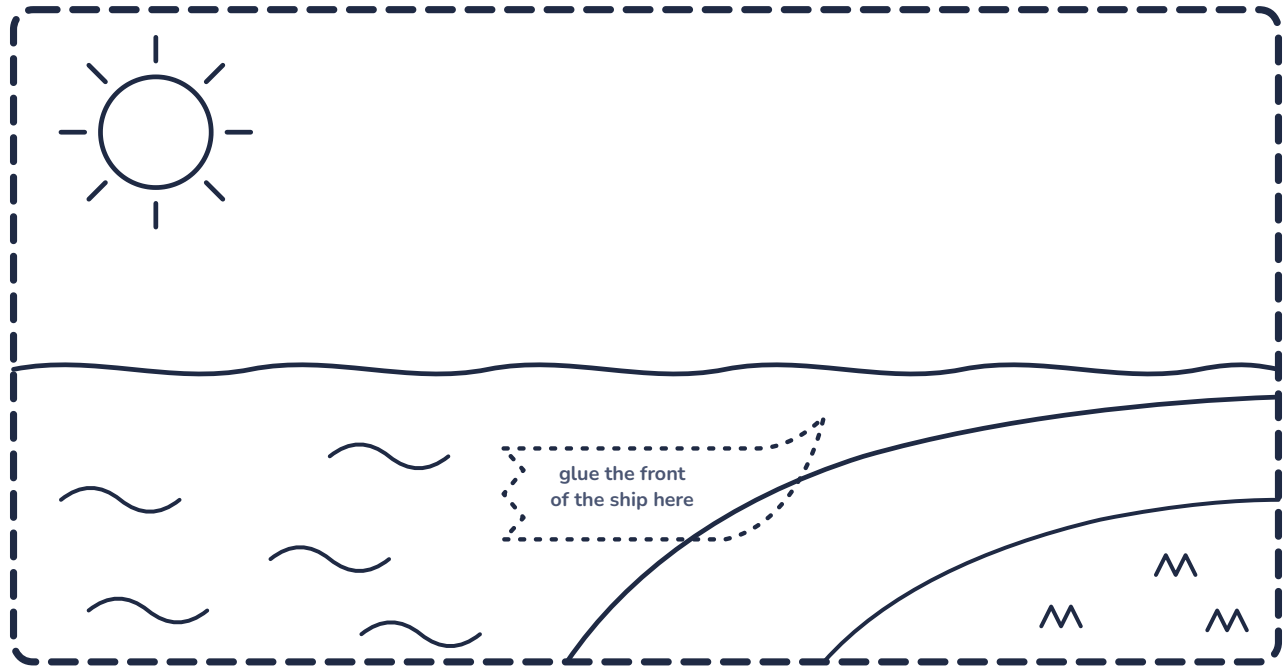


Harder

Both levels are a sea card with an island shore. The front of the ship is glued where it ran aground and stuck fast, the broken back of the ship lies loose on the waves, and four boards, each with a child's drawing of a face, are safe on the sand, because "they escaped all safe to land" (Acts 27:41–44). Medium (left): the sea card, the ship and the boards. Harder (right): the same, with a fire standing on the island, the bundle of sticks beside it and a rain cloud in the sky (Acts 28:2–3).

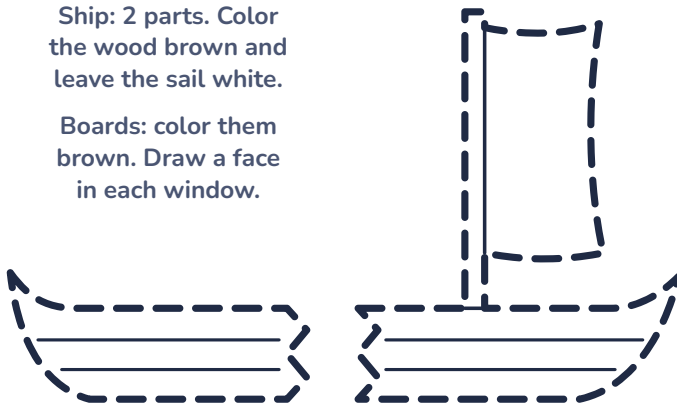
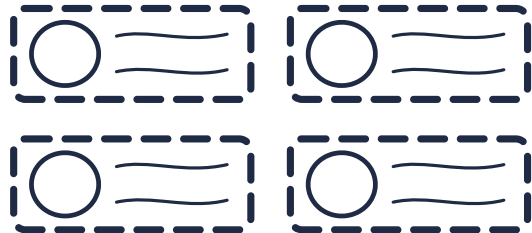
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Ship: 2 parts. Color the wood brown and leave the sail white.

Boards: color them brown. Draw a face in each window.



Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer:
for I believe God, that it shall
be even as it was told me.

Acts 27:25 (KJV)

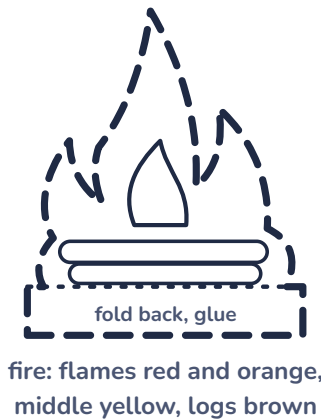
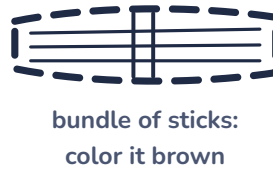
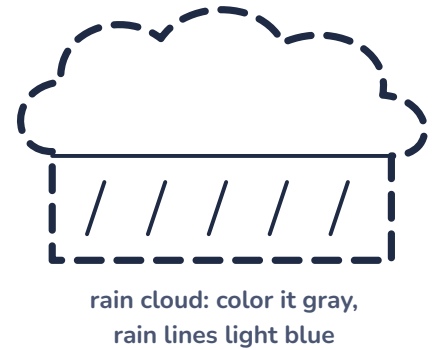
Color the sea card: sky light blue, sun yellow, sea blue, sand light brown, grass green. Color the ship's wood and the boards brown, and leave the sail white. Draw a face in each window. Cut out all eight pieces. You also need a glue stick.

Name: _____

& Harder level

Fire and rain on the island (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold the fire's tab back on the dotted line.

**How to add the fire and the rain**

1. Make the sea card with the ship and the boards from page 2 first.
2. Color the fire: the flames red and orange, the middle flame yellow and the logs brown. Color the bundle of sticks brown, the rain cloud gray and the rain lines light blue. Cut out all three pieces.
3. Fold the fire's tab back on the dotted line. Glue the tab on the grass at the bottom right of the island, so the fire stands up. The people of the island "kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold" (Acts 28:2).
4. Glue the bundle of sticks on the grass beside the fire. Paul "gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire" (28:3).
5. Glue the rain cloud in the sky above the island (the present rain, 28:2).
6. Tell it: the island was called Melita (28:1), the island known today as Malta. God kept every one of the 276 people safe (27:37, 27:44).

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/paul-shipwrecked-craft

Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels

You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers (light blue, blue, yellow, light brown, green, brown, and one for drawing faces), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and red, orange and gray crayons.

Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the sea card, the two ship parts, the four boards and the verse strip ahead of time, and glue the verse strip on the back of each sea card.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue on the verse. Kids color the sea card and the boards and draw a face in each window. Then they glue the front of the ship on the dotted spot and push the boards to the shore.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut and glue, and tell the story with the pieces. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the sea card like the medium level. Then add page 3: a fire that stands up on the island, the bundle of sticks and a rain cloud (Acts 28:2–3). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the sea card:** the sky light blue, the sun yellow, the sea blue, the sand light brown and the grass green.
2. **Color the pieces:** color the wood of both ship parts brown and leave the sail white. Color the four boards brown, and in each window draw the face of one of the people on the ship.
3. **Cut:** cut out the sea card, the two ship parts, the four boards and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Verse:** turn the sea card over and glue the verse strip on the back.
5. **Tell it:** put the two ship parts together on the sea, zigzag edges touching. Cover the sun with your hand: "neither sun nor stars in many days appeared" (Acts 27:20). Paul said, "I believe God" (27:25). When it was day, sail the ship to the shore (27:39). It ran aground: the front stuck fast, so glue it on the dotted ship spot. The back was broken by the waves: slide it away and leave it loose on the sea (27:41).
6. **Safe to land:** slide the four boards across the sea to the sand and glue them down. "Some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship... they escaped all safe to land" (27:44).
7. **Verse:** read the verse strip together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Why was Paul on the ship? *(He was a prisoner, sent to Italy to stand before Caesar, Acts 27:1, 27:24)*
- What could the men not see for many days? *(Neither sun nor stars, 27:20)*
- What did Paul say would be lost, and what would not? *(No man's life would be lost, only the ship, 27:22)*
- Who stood by Paul that night? *(The angel of God, "whose I am, and whom I serve," 27:23)*
- What did Paul say about God? *("I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me," 27:25)*
- What did Paul do before he ate? *(He gave thanks to God in front of them all, 27:35)*
- How many people were on the ship? *(Two hundred threescore and sixteen souls: 276, 27:37)*
- Glue down the front of the ship. What happened to the back? *(It was broken by the waves, 27:41)*
- Push the boards to the shore. How many got safe to land? *(All of them, 27:44)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** **tempest** means a big storm; **be of good cheer** means cheer up, don't be afraid; **wherefore** means so; **sirs** means men; **meat** means food; **threescore** means sixty (a score is twenty); **souls** means people; **aground** means stuck on the bottom near the shore; the **forepart** is the front and the **hinder part** is the back; **Melita** is the Bible's name for the island known today as Malta.
- **What the Bible says:** the Bible doesn't say the ship hit rocks. It ran aground "where two seas met," the front stuck fast, and the back was broken by the waves (Acts 27:41). So the template's front piece is glued down and the back piece is left loose.
- **Calm, not scary:** tell the storm gently. The point is that God kept His word to every person on the ship (27:22, 27:44).
- **The viper:** on the island a viper fastened on Paul's hand, and he shook it off into the fire and felt no harm (28:3–5). Tell it simply. There is no snake piece on purpose: no snake games, and tell kids never to touch a snake.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never the angel:** each child draws faces in the board windows. Draw men with short hair; any woman or girl a child draws has long hair and a long dress.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "I believe God!" and push the boards to the shore.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Paul shipwreck lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/paul-shipwrecked.