

Paul Is Shipwrecked

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God keeps His word. Paul believed God, and everyone on the ship got safe to land.

Bible passage: Acts 27:13–44 and Acts 28:1–2. Read it yourself before class.

Memory verse: "I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." *Acts 27:25 (KJV)*. That means: God will do just what He said.

You need: a Bible, a blanket or bedsheet (optional), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 27.

1. Opening game: Wind and Waves (5 minutes)

Everyone sits on the floor. Say: "The wind is blowing!" (kids sway gently side to side). "The rain is falling!" (pat your knees). "Big waves!" (roll your arms). "Now it is calm." (sit very still). Play two or three times. Then say: "Today we will hear a true story about a big storm at sea, and how God kept everyone safe."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 27. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." If you have a blanket, kids hold the edges and make gentle waves while you tell it. Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Paul loved God. Paul went on a big ship (Acts 27:1–6). *(Make a ship with your hands.)*

The wind blew and blew (27:14). *(Sway side to side.)*

No sun in the day, no stars at night, for many days (27:20). *(Cover your eyes.)*

God sent His angel to tell Paul, "Fear not, Paul" (27:23–24). *(Hand on your heart.)*

God would keep every one of them safe (27:22, 27:24). *(Hug yourself.)*

Say it with me: "I believe God!" (27:25) *(Point up.)*

Paul gave thanks to God for bread, and they all ate (27:35–36). *(Fold your hands.)*

The ship got stuck, and the back of it broke (27:41). *(Clap once.)*

Some swam. Some held on to boards (27:43–44). *(Swim with your arms.)*

Every one got safe to land (27:44)! *(Throw your hands up high.)*

The people of the island made a fire to keep them warm (28:2). *(Rub your hands together.)*

Say it with me: "God keeps His word!"

3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What blew and blew? (*The wind, a big storm, Acts 27:14*)
2. What did Paul say? (*"I believe God," 27:25*)
3. How many people got safe to land? (*Every one, 27:44*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Paul said, 'I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.' That means God will do just what He said." Say the verse together, and point up on "I believe God." Say it three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Acts 27:25" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Paul belonged to God (Acts 27:23). God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Shore (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw blue waves, a sandy shore, and people safe on the land. While they color, ask: "What blew and blew? What did Paul say? Did everyone get safe to land?" Kids who finish early can play Wind and Waves again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for keeping me safe.

When I am afraid, I will trust You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the storm gentle and calm in your voice. If a child is afraid of storms, say: "God was with Paul in the storm, and God is with you too." Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

