



July's B.i.G. Idea

We believe that we can live and act with love and courage because God is always with us.

July's Bible Verse

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2

July's B.i.G. Theme

Come, Live the Adventure

Lesson 9 ★ Shipwrecked

Today's Bible Story

Acts 27

Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Paul's shipwreck and discover how Paul's faith and courage helped the good news of Jesus to spread all over the world.
- ★ Children will recognize that we, like Paul, can live and act with boldness and courage because God's love is always with us.

Paul was a man of courage. He continued to preach the Gospel everywhere he went, regardless of the circumstances or the consequences. In this story Paul has been imprisoned for preaching about Jesus. When Acts 27 opens, we find Paul a prisoner under the supervision of a centurion named Julius. They are boarding a ship for Italy.

Since Paul was a Roman citizen, he requested that his case be tried by the Roman Emperor. While waiting to be sent to Rome for the trial, Paul had presented a powerful defense before King Agrippa (Acts 26), who said, "This man is not guilty of anything. He does not deserve to die or be put in jail." But Paul was still shipped off to Rome to be tried by the Emperor.

The journey brought the passengers one difficulty after another. Paul warned the ship's crew that, with winter approaching, sailing would be dangerous. But the sailors did not listen to Paul. Instead, they decided to try to sail as far as Crete. When the ship neared the island of Crete, a strong wind struck the ship. The storm was so fierce that they had to throw their cargo and even the ship's tackle overboard to avoid sinking. For several days they could see neither sun nor stars, and the sailors and passengers alike gave up all hope of being saved.

After many days of storms, Paul assured everyone on board: "God will protect you. Not a hair of your heads will be harmed!" For fourteen days and nights of terrible storms, everyone was too worried to eat. Finally Paul said, "I beg you to eat something. Your lives depend on it." Paul took a loaf of bread and blessed it. Then he broke the bread and gave it to the 276 men who were aboard the ship.

When morning came, the ship's crew found themselves near land. They decided to try to run the ship aground on the beach, but the ship was smashed by the waves. The only way for anyone to survive was to swim ashore. The soldiers on board thought that Paul and the other prisoners should be killed so they could not escape, but Julius saved their lives. And at last, holding on to planks of wood and parts of the broken ship, everyone made it safely to shore. As Paul had promised, God protected them, and not a single person was hurt.

Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome! ✓

Ship Building

Water Table

Transition Time ✓

. . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Hear the Bible Story ✓

Break Bread Together

Safe on the Shore ✓

Adventure Passports

Travel Time ✓

. . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Praise Time

Closing Worship ✓



TimeSaver

Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



EcoFriendly

Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

DVD Summary: Travel Time

Mr. Z, Ms. Lucy, and Bongo experience a storm that reminds them of the storm that Paul experienced. Their experience introduces a Travel Time that lets the children go along on a mission opportunity called Project Noah. The children featured in this segment are involved in helping victims of Hurricane Katrina. Whether it is cleaning up a yard, getting a house ready to be lived in again, or praying for the people who live there, these children are showing God's love to some people who desperately need to know that they are not alone in their struggles.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that we can live and act with love and courage because God is always with us.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

Welcome!

Supplies: Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television, sailor hats made earlier (page 60)

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child an anchor **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Say:** Last week we traveled down the wall with Paul and learned that God is always with us to help us. Today we're sailing across the sea with Paul. It's a tough journey, but God is with us!
 - ★ **Ask:** Do you remember our Bible verse for this month? It says: "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2). We will find out how God helped Paul.
 - ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).
 - ★ Give each child the sailor hat he or she made earlier this month (page 60). Help any child who has been absent make a hat.
 - ★ Invite the children to look at the **Stickers** on the hat.
 - ★ **Say:** Do you remember the adventures we have taken this month? We've spent time inside a big fish, and we've sailed on a stormy sea, and we escaped over a wall in a basket. Today we're going on another adventure—this time with Paul in another boat and another storm.
 - ★ Give each child the **Sticker** of a ship and lightning to attach to the hat.
 - ★ Invite the children to wear their sailor hats.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us act with love and courage.

Ship Building

Supplies: Kids' Book, Leader—page 96, plastic foam cups, scissors, tape, gluesticks, crayons or markers, craft sticks, play dough

Prepare

- ★ Punch out the two ship sides (**Kids' Book**) for each child.
- ★ Photocopy and cut out the sail (**Leader—page 96**) for each child.
- ★ Cut down plastic foam cups to fit the height of the ship sides.

- Do** ★ Give each child the two ship sides and a plastic cup.
- ★ Help them tape the ship sides onto opposite sides of the plastic cups to hold them in place.

Invite them in . . .

- ★ Have the child glue together the ends of the ship sides.
- ★ Give each child a sail (**Leader—page 96**).
- ★ Have the children decorate the sail.
- ★ Help each child fold the sail in half.
- ★ Show the child how to glue a craft stick in between the sail layers to make a mast.
- ★ Place a small amount of play dough inside the cup.
- ★ Stick the craft stick in the play dough to make the sail stand up.
- ★ **Say:** Today our Bible story is about Paul sailing on a ship. It is a tough journey through a storm, but God is with everyone on the ship!
- ★ Read the Bible verse printed on the sail to the children.
- ★ **Say:** We will find out how God helps Paul when we hear our Bible story.



Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us act with love and courage.

Water Table

Supplies: plastic covering, water table or plastic tub, water, ships made above, towels

Prepare

- ★ Cover the table or floor with plastic covering.
- ★ Set a water table or plastic tub, partially filled with water, on the covering.

Do

- ★ Let the children play at the water table.
- ★ Encourage the children to float the ships they made earlier.
- ★ **Say:** In our story today, Paul's ship goes through a terrible storm. Let's blow on our ships to make a pretend storm.
- ★ Encourage the children to blow on their ships.
- ★ **Say:** It is a tough journey through a storm, but God is with everyone on the ship!

Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us act with love and courage.

Transition Time

Supplies: box boat made earlier (page 62)

- Do** ★ Have the children sit in or around the box boat. (If you chose not to make the boat, tell the children to pretend to row a boat.)
- ★ Sing the song "My Help Comes From the Lord" as the children pretend to row a boat.

My Help Comes From the Lord

(Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

My help comes from the Lord.
 My help comes from the Lord.
 Row along and sing this song;
 My help comes from the Lord.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us act with love and courage.

LIVE BIG

The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that we can live and act with love and courage because God is always with us.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

Hear the Bible Story

Supplies: Bible, Leader—page 95

- Do** ★ Hold your Bible open to the Book of Acts.
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story is from the Book of Acts. It is a story about Paul's adventure on a ship. The ship goes through a terrible storm, and Paul prays to God for help and guidance.
 - ★ **Say:** I will need your help to tell the story. You will make the sounds of the storm. Let's practice. First let's make the sound of the wind. Everyone say, "Whoosh! Whoosh!" Great. Now let's make the sounds of the waves splashing against the boat. Everyone say, "Splash! Splash!" Good job. Now let's tell the story together and hear how God helped Paul!
 - ★ Tell the story "Shipwrecked" (**Leader—page 95**). Encourage the children to make the storm sounds as indicated in the story.
 - ★ **Say:** Paul knew that God was always there to help him.

Live B.i.G. God is always there to help us.

Break Bread Together

Supplies: box boat made earlier (page 62), loaf of bread, water, napkin, cups

- Do** ★ Have each child wash his or her hands.
- ★ Have the children get back into the boat to get their snacks.
 - ★ **Say:** Paul broke bread with all the people on board the ship. Paul thanked God for the food, blessed it, and gave some to everyone. I will give you a piece of bread, and you may take your bread back to the table to eat it.
 - ★ Hold up the bread.
 - ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for bread to eat. Thank you for being with us to help us. Amen.
 - ★ Break the bread in half. Then give each child a piece of bread.
 - ★ **Say:** Paul knew that God was with them to help them. When Paul asked everyone to eat and then shared the bread, it gave everyone hope.

Check for allergies before serving this snack.



Live B.i.G. God is always there to help us.

Into the Bible

Safe on the Shore

Supplies: clear 2-liter plastic bottle; sand; small items such as beads, marbles, tiny seashells; funnel

Prepare

- ★ Fill a 2-liter bottle three-fourths full of sand.
- ★ Add any tiny items such as beads, broken jewelry, marbles, and other items that fit through the opening. Secure the lid.

- Do** ★ **Say:** When Paul's ship broke apart, everyone swam to the sandy shore. Everyone was safe. God was with Paul during the shipwreck. God is always with us.
- ★ Choose a child sitting in the circle and roll the bottle to that child.
 - ★ Encourage the child to shake and roll the bottle to see the treasures in the sand.
 - ★ Have the child repeat the words, "God is always with me."
 - ★ Then have the child roll the bottle back to you.
 - ★ Continue to roll the bottle to different children until each child has a turn.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us.

Adventure Passports

Supplies: Kids' Book, Stickers, passports made earlier (page 63)

Prepare

- ★ Prepare a passport (**Kids' Book**) for any child who does not have one.

- Do** ★ Give the children their passports (**Kids' Book**).
- ★ Give each child a Rome **Sticker**.
 - ★ **Say:** This week we traveled in a ship. Place your Rome **Sticker** on your passport.
 - ★ **Say:** Remember a passport shows all the places you have traveled. You need to have your passport **Sticker** in order to get to Travel Time.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us, no matter where we go.

Travel Time

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ **Say:** I wonder if Bongo, Mr. Z, and Ms. Lucy have ever been in a storm at sea.
- ★ Watch Travel Time (**DVD**).
 - ★ **Say:** Many people today are still hurt by hurricanes and other terrible storms. But we can help them put their lives back together again.
 - ★ **Ask:** What were some of the things the people in Travel Time did to help? (*clean up the yards, paint, rebuild houses*)
 - ★ **Pray:** Let's pray right now. Dear God, please help anyone who is hurting because of a bad storm. Thank you for being with them and with us. Amen.

Live B.i.G. When we help others, our help comes from the Lord.



The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that we can live and act with love and courage because God is always with us.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

Praise Time

Supplies: DVD, Leader—page 5, DVD player, television, sailor hats made earlier (page 60)

- Do** ★ As you point to each **Sticker** on one of the children's sailor hats, help the children recall the adventure stories they have heard this month.
- Big Fish Sticker.** What do you remember of the story about Jonah? (*He was swallowed by a fish. Then he went to Nineveh to do what God wanted him to do.*)
- Boat in a Storm Sticker.** What happened when Jesus and his friends were in a boat? (*A storm came up.*) How did Jesus' friends feel? (*afraid*) What did Jesus do? (*calmed the storm*)
- Basket Sticker.** Who helped Paul when he had to hide in a basket to escape the city. (*his friends; God*)
- Ship and Lightning Sticker.** Who helped Paul when he was in a shipwreck? (*God*)
- ★ **Say:** Let's sing "I'm Part of the Story Too." Look for the pictures of the stories you have heard this month.
 - ★ Play "I'm Part of the Story Too" (**DVD**). Let the children sing and dance.

Live B.i.G. Bible stories help teach us how God wants us to live.

Closing Worship

Supplies: Stickers, Kids' Book, Leader—page 95, sailor hats (page 60) and passports (page 63) made earlier

Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook (**Kids' Book**) for each child (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "Shipwrecked" (**Leader—page 95**) for each child.

- Do** ★ Place a "God Is Always With Me" worship badge (**Stickers**) on each child.
- ★ **Say:** Sometimes we need courage. Remember: God is always with you!
 - ★ Give each child his or her passport.
 - ★ **Say:** Today you can take your passport home to show your friends and family all the places you have traveled this month with God!
 - ★ Give each child his or her sailor hat, a storybook (**Kids' Book**), and a copy of "Shipwrecked" (**Leader—page 95**) to take home.

Live B.i.G. God is always with us to help us act with love and courage.

Shipwrecked

Paul traveled far and wide telling others about Jesus. But some people did not like what Paul was doing, so they had Paul arrested. Now Paul was a prisoner. He was put on a ship along with other prisoners.

The ship was to sail to the city called Rome, but winter was coming, and sailing would be very dangerous!

Paul told the sailors that they should wait and not sail until spring. But they did not listen.

The ship set sail, and it wasn't long before the wind ("Whoosh! Whoosh!") and the waves ("Splash! Splash!") started rocking the ship.

The sailors were afraid. The wind ("Whoosh! Whoosh!") and the waves ("Splash! Splash!") continued. The sailors were sure that everyone would die.

But Paul knew that God was with them. An angel spoke to

Paul and said, "You will be safe, and everyone with you will be safe!"

The ship kept on going through the wind ("Whoosh! Whoosh!") and the waves ("Splash! Splash!") trying to find a safe place to land.

Paul wanted everyone on the ship to keep up their strength, so he told all of them to eat. He took some bread and gave thanks to God. Then he broke the bread and began to eat. Soon everyone was eating. Eating together gave them hope.

Finally the sailors found a beach, but the wind ("Whoosh! Whoosh!") and waves ("Splash! Splash!") knocked the ship onto the reef and it began to break apart.

Everyone started swimming and, just as Paul had promised, everyone made it safely to the sandy shore!

based on Acts 27

Sail

