Objectives

- Children will connect with the biblical story of Paul’s shipwreck, and how Paul’s faith and courage helped the good news of Jesus to spread all over the world.
- Children will recognize that we can live and act with boldness and courage because God’s love is always with us.

Trials, storms at sea, and shipwrecks make for exciting stories. Paul’s story actually begins with his trial before Agrippa. Paul restates in open court the details of his conversion. His defense against the Jews’ charges becomes an attempt to convert Agrippa to the Christian faith. His testimony is interrupted by Festus, who thinks Paul has lost his mind.

Agrippa finds no fault, aside from his zeal, in Paul. However, Paul could not be acquitted and set free because he had appealed his case to Caesar, and the matter would have to be resolved in front of Caesar. The decision is made to put Paul on a ship with a few other prisoners so they can set sail for Rome. A storm forms over the Mediterranean, and the ship is tossed about the waves. It is when the ship heads for safer waters that the worst happens. Just as land was in sight, the ship ran aground and was dashed to pieces by the surf.

This story is so much like life. We sometimes weather great storms, only to be dashed to pieces in relatively calm waters. Perhaps it is because when we find ourselves in difficult times, we are diligent to pray and give attention to our decision-making. However, just when we begin to feel safe is when it becomes easy to relax our discipline and feel secure in our own efforts.

Paul continued his ministry aboard ship. He was aware of the needs of the soldiers and sailors aboard the ship. He noticed that, as they battled the storm, they went without food and rest in order to bring the ship through. He encouraged them to eat and to take care of their bodies. This caring act made the centurion, a high-ranking soldier in charge of guarding the prisoners, mindful of protecting Paul and the others. As the ship went aground and began to break apart, it became necessary to abandon ship. The sailors wanted to kill the prisoners in order to prevent their escape. However, the centurion Paul had befriended took the matter into his own hands and facilitated Paul’s escape.

As you teach today’s lesson, tell this exciting story by drawing comparisons to the children’s lives. They may not have been on trial, but have they had to defend their choices? They may not have survived a storm at sea, but have they come through some other frightening difficulty? They may not have been shipwrecked, but has there been another time when they have had to depend on God? Today’s story shows Paul’s courage. We, too, can have this kind of courage because we are confident that God’s love is always present with us.
This week’s On the Road takes your students on a mission trip to the hurricane-ravaged area of New Orleans. They will watch a group of students who are working through Project NOAH to help bring order back to the victims. Whether it’s 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 aren’t 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.

What’s That Verse?

Supplies: Leader—page 118, pencils or scissors and gluesticks

Prepare

★ Photocopy “What’s That Verse?” (Leader—page 118) for each child.

Do  ★ Say: The Bible verse is hidden in the tiles on our activity page. Rearrange the tiles and place them side by side to reveal the mystery verse.
★ Pass out copies of “What’s That Verse?” (Leader—page 118).
★ Encourage the children to complete the puzzle by either rearranging and writing the tiles in the squares in the correct order or by cutting out the tiles, placing them in the correct order in the blank squares, and gluing them in place.

Live B.i.G. We can discover God’s Word.

Hidden Pictures

Supplies: Leader—page 119, colored pencils or crayons

Prepare

★ Photocopy “Sinking-Ship Hidden Pictures” (Leader—page 119) for each child.

Do  ★ Say: Our Bible story today is about a shipwreck. A shipwreck happens when a ship sinks either because of a storm or because it hits something and can’t float anymore. In our story, everyone got through the shipwreck safely, but they lost a lot of their possessions. There are a number of hidden pictures in this puzzle. See if you can find them all.
★ Pass out copies of “Sinking-Ship Hidden Pictures” (Leader—page 119).
★ Read through the list of items that the children need to find. Invite the children to color those items.
★ Allow time for the children to complete the puzzle. Encourage readers to assist nonreaders in checking the list of things for which to look.

Live B.i.G. God reveals all that we need to know.
Bail Out

Supplies: Bible, several grocery bags, several changes of clothes, photos, toothbrush, comb, brush, empty food containers, play money, towel, soap, book, map, flashlight, seeds, candy

Prepare
* Arrange all the items, except the grocery bags, around the room in plain sight.

Do * Say: Shipwrecks happen very quickly. Often, the people on the boat don’t have a lot of time to gather their belongings. If you only had a few minutes to grab the things you need, what would you take? I will give your teams each a bag, and you will have one minute to pack what you think your team will need to survive on a deserted island.
* Divide the children into mixed-age teams.
* Give each team a bag.
* Allow the children to examine the room and decide what items might be important.
* Say “Go!,” and time one minute.
* Say: What did you gather? Was one minute a long time or a short time? Let’s look at what was chosen and what you could use it for.
* Allow time for the children to share the contents of their bags.

Live B.i.G. We can work together in emergencies. God provides us with friends to help us.

Sailing Ship

Supplies: Leader—page 117, tape, scissors, crayons, paper punch, straws, play dough

Prepare
* Photocopy “Sailing Ship” (Leader—page 117) for each child.

Do * Say: The boat in today’s story was a big sailing ship that crossed the sea, until it got caught in a terrible storm. It made it safely in the storm, only to sink as it almost reached safety.
* Provide each child with a copy of “Sailing Ship” (Leader—page 117), scissors, crayons, and a straw.
* Have the children decorate the ship’s hull and sail with crayons. The heavier the crayon wax on the bottom and sides of the hull, the more waterproof the craft.
* Have the children cut out the hull on the solid lines and fold up along the dotted lines. Have them connect the flaps together with tape.
* Have the children color a design on the sail.
* Have them cut out the sail. Using a paper punch, have them make a hole in the top and the bottom of the sail. Have the children slide a straw through the two holes.
* Have the children attach the straw mast to the bottom of the ship with a small bit of play dough.

Live B.i.G. God kept Paul safe from the storm in a strong sailing ship.
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.

Open Your Bible

Supplies: Bibles, Leader—page 116, DVD, DVD player, television

Prepare
★ Photocopy “Shipwreck!” (Leader—page 116) for each child.
★ Preview On the Road (DVD).

Do ★ Ask: What stories have we heard this month in which bad weather occurred? (Jonah, Jesus Calms the Storm) Are there other Bible stories that have bad weather? (Noah, Peter in Prison [earthquake], Elisha [drought])
★ Have the children turn to Acts in their Bibles.
★ Give each child a copy of Leader—page 116. Read “Shipwreck!”
★ Ask: What kind of storm over the ocean might cause this much trouble? (hurricane) Let’s go On the Road today and learn about a project that helped people who suffered through bad weather.
★ Watch On the Road (DVD).

Live B.i.G. Bad weather cannot separate us from God’s love and protection.

See, Feel, Hear

Supplies: large sheets of plain white paper, markers, watch, tape

Prepare
★ Tape the sheets of plain paper on three walls of the classroom.
★ Write the word “See” on one sheet, “Feel” on another sheet, and “Hear” on the third sheet.

Do ★ Say: Imagine that you are on a ship that is wrecking. What kinds of things might you see? (waves, parts of the ship floating, sharks, people swimming) What kinds of things might you feel? (wet, afraid, cold, seasick) What kinds of things might you hear? (water rushing, ship groaning, people yelling) When I say “Go,” go around the room and write as many things as you can think of on each poster. It does not matter if someone has written the same thing already, just write as many words as you can think of.
★ Provide each child with a marker.
★ Give the signal to begin. Allow the children 4 minutes to write on the posters.
* Ask: What are some good feelings, sights, and sounds that you wrote? What are some bad ones? Our Bible story today tells about a shipwreck. The people on the ship with Paul may have had some of the experiences we have described here today. God kept Paul and his friends safe as they escaped a very frightening situation.

* Have the children make a large sign that reads “Paul’s Shipwreck Experience,” and hang it on a wall in your church or classroom. Move the three posters under the sign.

* Encourage the children to tell other members of the congregation about Paul’s shipwreck and some of the things he might have seen, heard, and felt.

**Live B.i.G.** We do not need to fear when God is with us.

### Walk the Plank

**Supplies:** several boards/planks wide enough for a child to walk on, spray bottle

**Do**  
- **Say:** When Paul’s ship sank, those who could swim jumped overboard and swam to shore. The others who could not swim had to float ashore, hanging onto debris or planks from the ship.
- **Lay the planks end to end across the room.**
- **Sit in a chair near the middle of the planks, but positioned about three feet away.**
- **Say:** Each of you must walk the plank through the storm to safety. Say this month’s Bible verse as you walk across the plank. If you forget a word of the verse or fall off the plank, you have to go back to the beginning and start over.
- **The children walk across the planks from one end to the other.** The teacher mists the children with the spray bottle while they walk.

**Live B.i.G.** God keeps us safe in storms.

### Banana Ship

**Supplies:** plastic banana-split dishes/boats (from ice cream store), plastic spoons, bananas, plastic knives, cans of whipped cream, maraschino cherries, pretzel rods

**Do**  
- **Have the children wash their hands prior to working with the food.**
- **Provide** each child with a plastic banana-split dish, a banana, and a plastic knife.
- **Help the children peel the bananas and cut them in half lengthwise to fit inside their boats.**
- **The teacher or the older children can top the bananas with a small amount of whipped cream.**
- **Provide** each child with two maraschino cherries: one for Paul; one for Barnabas.
- **The children can use a pretzel rod to be a mast, by standing it upright in the whipped cream.**
- **The children may eat their projects and keep the boats as toys to float at home.**

**Live B.i.G.** People traveled in sailing ships in Paul’s day. Paul could travel far on his ship.
Lesson 9
July 31, 2011

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.

The B.i.G. Sound

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

Prepare
★ Preview The B.I.G. Sound (DVD).

Do ★ Say: Following God can sometimes lead us to new adventures. God is always with us on these adventures.
★ Play The B.I.G. Sound (DVD). Sing and dance along with the cast.

Live B.i.G. We praise God for our adventuresome lives.

Make a Barometer

Supplies: for each child: a quart glass jar, scissors, balloon, large rubber band, plastic drinking straw, cellophane tape, ruler; paper; pencil

Prepare
★ Create a tracking page on a piece of paper. Make three columns—one for the date, one for the reading, and one for the weather.
★ Make a sample barometer two to three days before class. Track readings by filling out the chart on the page you made.
★ Photocopy the tracking page for each child.

Do ★ Say: What do you do when you want to know the weather forecast? (look online, listen to weather on television or radio, look at the newspaper) In Jesus’ day, people didn’t have all the modern technology we have to predict weather. If the disciples had known a storm was coming, they probably wouldn’t have tried to sail across the Sea of Galilee. One tool meteorologists use to help predict weather is a barometer. We're going to make simple barometers.
★ Give each child a glass jar, a balloon, and scissors.
★ Have each child cut a piece of the balloon to stretch across the top of the jar.
★ Have the children work in pairs. Have one partner stretch the balloon piece across the jar and hold it in place, while the other partner attaches the balloon in place with a rubber band. Do this for both partners’ jars.
★ Give each child a straw and have him or her cut one end at a 45-degree angle.
★ Tape the other end of the straw to the middle of the balloon over the jar.
★ Show the children the paper with which you have been tracking weather. Go over the columns in the chart. Point out any interesting
data, such as the barometric reading during a recent rain.

- **Say:** Barometers measure atmospheric pressure. When the reading is low, you can expect precipitation, such as rain. When the reading is high, expect nice weather.
- **Show the children how to tape the ruler on the wall and place the barometer so that the straw is very close to, but not touching, the ruler.
- **Say:** When you look at your barometer, see where on the ruler the point of your straw is pointing. Mark the number to which it is pointing on your chart. That’s the barometric pressure reading.
- **Encourage the children to check their barometers two or three times a day, noting the barometric pressure in the correct column.
- **Show them how to fill out the rest of the chart.**

**Live B.I.G.** We can pray to God when we are comforted and when we are afraid.

### Race to the Shore!

**Supplies:** carpet squares, two ropes

**Do**

- Choose one side of the room to be the shipwreck and the other side to be the island. Mark the shipwreck with one rope and the island shore with the other. The children will gather at the shipwreck.
- Divide the class into two teams, including children of all ages on each team.
- **Say:** Your goal is to get from the shipwreck to the island. But not everyone in your group can swim, so you must use the “planks” (carpet squares) to get everyone across safely. You must all travel together, and no one can step off the planks into the water or your whole team must return to the start and begin again.
- The goal is for each group to get all of their members on all but one of the carpet squares, then pass the extra carpet square to the front and then shift forward, moving one square at a time until they reach the other side.
- Provide each team with enough carpet squares so that each group can barely fit its entire group on all but one. This should be a challenge; encourage each team to work together.
- Give a signal to begin the race. Watch closely to ensure that no one steps off the carpet squares into the water. The first team to successfully cross is the winning team.

**Live B.I.G.** We can encourage one another.

### Closing Worship

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

**Prepare**

- Preview the sign language for this month’s Bible verse on the July Teacher Tips (DVD).

**Do**

- Review the signs for this month’s Bible verse with the children (DVD).
- **Say:** We believe what the B.I.G. Idea tells us—God is always with us. Anytime we’re in trouble, even if we’re in trouble with God, God is there to help us and to be with us and comfort us. God loves each of us very much.
- Lead the children in saying the Bible verse in sign language as a closing prayer.

**Live B.I.G.** No matter what, God loves us and is always there for us.
Paul was on trial before King Agrippa. When it came time for him to tell his story, he talked about Jesus instead. He told King Agrippa about Jesus and about why he believed Jesus was the Son of God. When he was done, the king asked Paul, “Are you trying to turn me into a Christian too?” Agrippa decided that Paul must go to Rome to speak with Caesar. He would sail on a big ship with other prisoners.

The prisoners were put on a boat and they sailed across the open sea. They sailed along slowly for many days. After a lot of time had passed, the sailing had become dangerous.

So 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.” But they didn’t listen to what Paul said. Instead, they followed the advice of the captain and the ship’s owner. The harbor wasn’t a good place for ships to stay during winter. So most of the people decided they should sail on.

Shortly after they had set out, a strong wind blew. It had the force of a hurricane. The ship was caught by the storm and tossed to and fro. The ship took a very bad beating from the storm. Some gave up all hope of being saved. Paul said, “Men, continue to be brave. I have faith in God. It will happen just as God told me.”

When daylight came, 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. They headed for the beach, but the ship hit a sandbar and got stuck fast. The back of the ship was broken to pieces by the pounding of the waves.

The soldiers were afraid the prisoners would escape and thought about killing them. But the kind commander wanted to save Paul’s life. So he kept the soldiers from carrying out their plan and ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and swim to land. The rest had to get to shore by hanging onto boards or other pieces of the ship. Everyone reached land safely.
What’s That Verse?

Rearrange the tiles to spell this month’s Bible verse.

GOIEVEOUREEPE OTIMND ALM
RMON F1:8 LOFORD Y TH 12
YTHERIS MINROMGIRD CO
RE. NAUROUTNGPSWILLK
AN
Sinking-Ship Hidden Pictures
Find the items listed below in the picture.

- cooking pot
- comb
- toothbrush
- Paul
- centurion
- anchor
- rope
- chair
- book
- shoe
- bat
- hat
- pen
- knife
- fork
- spoon