

WEEK TWO

## SURVIVING A SHIPWRECK

### BIG IDEA

God has promised to be with us

# EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF DISASTERS

### PREP

- Find a cushion for each child.
- Make or buy cupcakes. Put sails on top made from toothpicks and 'post it' notes. (or find some other type of nautical snack).

### WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A sheet of newspaper and two metre length of string per child.
- Adhesive tape (e.g. sellotape).

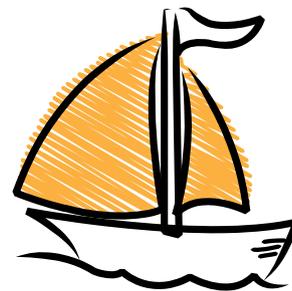


### OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the newspaper sheets, string, and tape.
- Give each child a sheet of newspaper and ask them to fold it into a boat (see appendix for an instruction on how to fold a boat).
- Screw up the left over pieces of newspaper to make rocks on the floor (or use cushions).
- Set the timer and, starting with the child who has the shortest hair, have them pull their boats by the string among the 'rocks' without hitting any rocks and getting shipwrecked.
- Ask the child who manages to get their boat through the obstacles in the best time without getting shipwrecked to pass around the cupcakes to eat while you all listen to the story.

### INTRODUCTION

This is a story of a terrible storm at sea, and a ship crashing on the rocks. Do you remember how Paul became a preacher and a missionary? And how he was persecuted for telling people about Jesus? Well, now he is a prisoner on board the ship, and even though he had done nothing wrong, he is being taken to Rome to stand trial in front of Caesar. Listen to how God uses him in a special way.



## READ

- Everyone can sit on the floor with a cushion on their lap and eat their cupcake.

After Paul was arrested for preaching the gospel, he told the governor that he was a Roman citizen. That made them worried because Roman citizens had special rights and privileges. So they asked a Roman centurion, Julius, to take Paul to Rome and deliver him to Caesar, along with several other prisoners.

As the ship left Caesarea, Paul's friends gathered at the seashore to watch their beloved friend sail away toward far-off Rome. They knew they might never see him again and that he might be put to death in Rome.

But after the ship set sail it made very little progress, because of the strong winds blowing against it. And after sailing many days, the passengers were really relieved to see the Island of Crete so they could stop in a harbour called Fair Havens.

The captain had come to trust Paul, so when it was time to sail

again he paid attention when Paul protested. "This voyage will bring a lot of trouble," said Paul. He tried to persuade the captain to remain at Fair Havens for the winter.

But the centurion and many of the passengers pressured the captain. They thought they could reach another port not far away and were in a hurry to get there before winter. So the captain ignored Paul's warning and set sail.

They hadn't gone far when a huge wind swept over them. They couldn't turn back, but they couldn't reach the next port either. All they could do was toss about on the angry waves, and wonder how long it would take before the ship broke apart.

Of course the captain and the centurion realised that Paul had spoken wisely, and now they would have to try to save the ship. They threw out everything that could be spared to lighten the weight of the vessel (*everyone throw their cushion*

*away*) and waited anxiously for the storm to die down. But the storm raged on. Day after day passed and everyone huddled together. They were terrified.

They thought they were going to die. But Paul stood up and in a loud voice called out, "The God whom I serve stood by me last night and said, Don't fear, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar. And, the lives of all these who sail with you God has given to you.' So I encourage you to cheer up, because we will all be saved alive, although we will be shipwrecked on an island and the ship will be lost."

But still the storm didn't stop, and for two more weeks they battled on. One night – at last! – the sailors saw they were getting close to some land. But they had no idea where they were and couldn't tell if it were a rocky coast or a sandy beach, so they threw the anchors overboard and waited anxiously for the morning light. ●●●

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When the day dawned Paul reminded them of the angel's words, that not one hair of their heads would perish; and then he took bread and gave thanks to God and encouraged them to eat.

But their troubles were still not over. Even though they could see a sandy bay, they couldn't steer the ship safely in to the shore. It struck

a hidden rock and the rear of it broke apart in the violent sea.

The soldiers on board panicked. They knew they would be killed if their prisoners escaped, so they wanted to kill all the prisoners at once. But because the centurion respected Paul, he refused. He commanded everyone to jump overboard and those who couldn't

swim to take broken pieces of the ship and float toward the shore.

No time was lost, and everyone struggled through the water toward the sandy beach. Of all the two hundred and seventy-six people on board the sinking vessel, not one drowned! »»

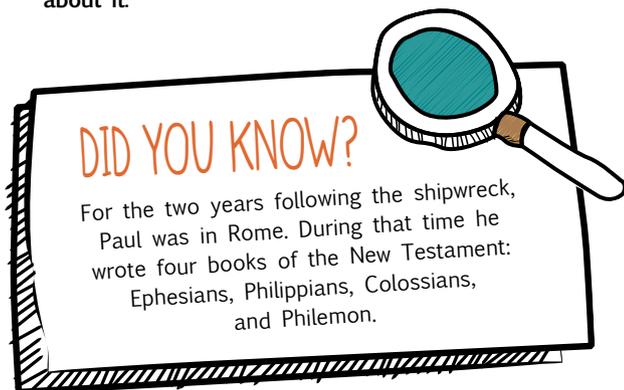
Acts 27:1-44

“SOMETIMES GOD CALMS THE STORM, SOMETIMES HE CALMS THE SAILOR.”

FAMILY TALK TIME

It must have been really scary on board that boat – what do you think would have been the worst part?

- How did God help Paul and the others in this situation?
- What did God do? Did he stop the storm? What difference did Paul make?
- Can you think of a time when you were in a difficult situation and you were able to help others? Tell us about it.



- How does the Holy Spirit give us strength to help ourselves in hard times and also to help those around us?

GAME

Shipwreck

- Choose one side of the room to be the shipwreck and the other side to be the island.
- Everyone starts at the shipwreck.
- The goal is to get from the shipwreck to the island. But not everyone in your group can swim, so you must use the “planks” (cushions) to get everyone across safely. You must all travel together, and if anyone steps off the planks into the water everyone must return to the start and begin again. Move across the room by everyone standing on two cushions, then taking the spare cushion from the back, and passing it to the front. Keep moving the cushions one at a time to move forward to the island.
- Once you have done this, break into two teams and do it again as a race. Choose someone as a ‘starter’ and ‘judge’ to make sure no one falls off the cushion. If they do they have to go back and start again.

## PRAY

- Invite everyone to gather on “the island”.
- Share something that is hard in your life at the moment.
- Pray for each other, asking for insight to find God in those hard situations; ask God also for the strength and encouragement to keep on going.

## LIVE

When we want to know the weather forecast, what do we do? (look online, listen to the weather report on television or radio, look at the newspaper).

In Paul’s day, with no such modern technology, they had to make educated guesses. A barometer was a tool that started to be used as early as the 17th century.

## OPTIONAL EXTRA ACTIVITY

Make a simple barometer to check the weather this week.

- Get a glass jar, balloon, ruler, rubber band, straw and scissors.
- Cut a piece of the balloon to stretch across the top of the jar. Work together to stretch the balloon piece across the jar, and hold it in place while you secure it with a rubber band.
- Cut one end of a straw at a 45-degree angle to make a clear point to the ruler. Tape the other end of the straw to the middle of the balloon over the jar.
- Tape a ruler to the wall behind it so the straw is close to it.

This week try tracking the weather by writing your results on a chart (with one column each for date, reading and weather). Notice where the straw is pointing on the ruler, and note the number on your chart (this is the barometric pressure reading). Try to check it 2 or 3 times a day – e.g. before school, after school and before bed. When the reading is low, you can expect rain. When the reading is high, expect nice weather. You might find that you can predict the weather better than the experts!



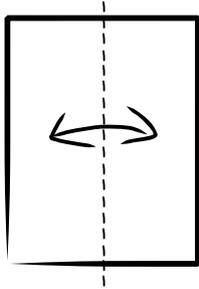
## OTHER IDEAS

- Try making a storm in a bottle – get 2 plastic bottles the same size. e.g. lemonade bottles – half fill one with liquid and add some blue food colouring for effect. Then duct tape the 2 bottles together (make sure to do it very well to avoid leakages) neck to neck. Tip the bottle so the one with water is on top and swirl the water around until it forms a funnel inside, like a hurricane.
- Sing the song “With Jesus in the boat you can smile through the storm.” (There is a fun version of this on YouTube.)
- Have fun learning a Bible verse on a nice day outside by walking the plank – take turns standing on a plank and reciting the verse – if you get it wrong have someone ready to squirt you with a water pistol!

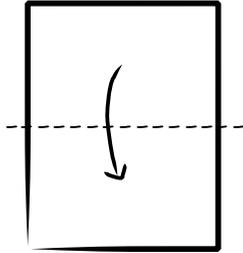
**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**



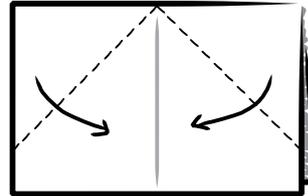
WEEK TWO



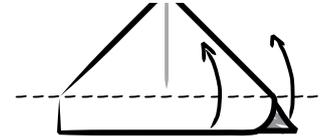
1. FOLD IN HALF



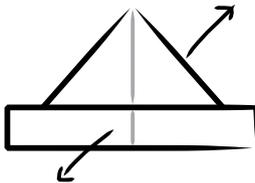
2. FOLD IN HALF AGAIN



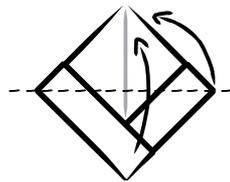
3. FOLD IN CORNERS



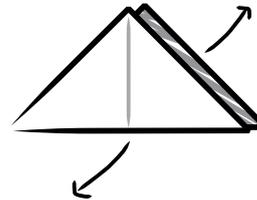
4. FOLD UP EDGES ON BOTH SIDES



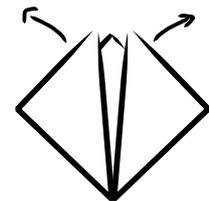
5. PULL THE SIDES OUT AND FLATTEN



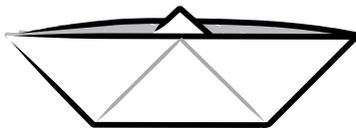
6. FOLD FRONT AND BACK LAYERS UP



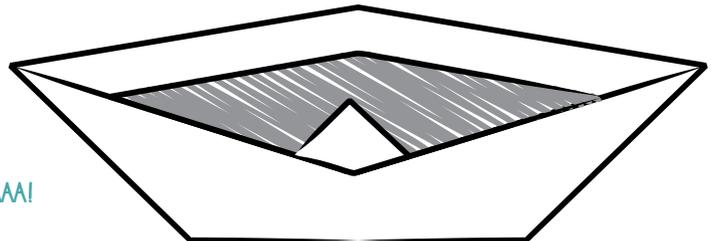
7. PULL SIDES APART AND FLATTEN



8. PULL TOP FLAPS OUTWARDS



9. SQUISH THE BOTTOM AND PULL THE SIDE UP



10. TA DAAA!