

Acts 27: 21-44: Paul is shipwrecked

Watch the cartoon *Paul and shipwreck* by Sharefaith kids

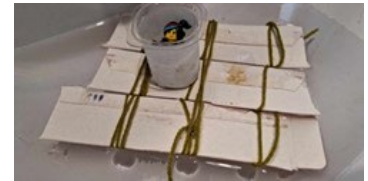
<https://youtu.be/wkt00DptsW0?si=ru9g-UphCymJi-JL>



Paul was a prisoner, being taken by ship to Rome for trial, when the ship was hit by a storm and wrecked on Malta. Having listened to God, Paul persuades the soldiers and crew that they will be saved if they just trust God and stay on the ship. He also gets them to eat, to preserve their strength. It must have taken great courage to speak to his captors, and great courage from them to listen to him.

The soldiers and sailors who could not swim were told to hold on to a piece of the broken ship and they would float to shore. This is a good excuse for a bit of raft building. Using bits of junk and some string, can you build a raft for a play person or Lego person to float on? Test it by floating it in a large bowl of water or in the bath. Can you move it across the water to the opposite side without touching it?

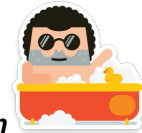
While you are doing it, think about how brave you'd need to be to trust God to keep you safe.



A prayer for when you are in the bath

Let the water be as calm as you can, then use your hand to make ripples and waves in the water as you pray

Thank you for always watching over me. Help me when I need to be brave. Amen



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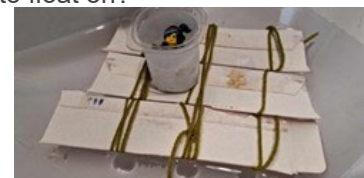
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Bible Reading - Acts 27: 21-44: Paul is shipwrecked

Paul said.... "God has given you this promise: He will save the lives of all those men sailing with you." ...

On the fourteenth night we were floating around in the Adriatic Sea. The sailors thought we were close to land. They threw a rope into the water with a weight on the end of it.

The sailors were afraid that we would hit the rocks. Then they prayed for daylight to come.

Some of the sailors wanted to leave the ship, and they lowered the lifeboat... But Paul told the officer and the other soldiers, "If these men do not stay in the ship, your lives cannot be saved!" So the soldiers cut the ropes and let the lifeboat fall into the water.

Just before dawn Paul began persuading all the people to eat something. He said, "You have not eaten. Now I beg you to eat something. You need it to stay alive. None of you will lose even one hair off your heads." After he said this, Paul took some bread and thanked God for it before all of them. He broke off a piece and began eating. They all started eating too.

When daylight came, the sailors saw land, they saw a bay with a beach... So they cut the ropes to the anchors and left the anchors in the sea... Then they raised the front sail into the wind and sailed toward the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank. The front of the ship stuck there and could not move. Then the big waves began to break the back of the ship to pieces.

The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so that none of them could swim away and escape. But Julius, the officer, wanted to let Paul live. He did not allow the soldiers to kill the prisoners. Instead he ordered everyone who could swim to jump into the water and swim to land. The rest used wooden boards or pieces of the ship.

And this is how all the people made it safely to land. *Scriptures quoted from the International Children's Bible®, copyright ©1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission.*

I wonder how easy you would have found it to trust what Paul said?



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