



LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Courage

SCRIPTURE: Acts 27–28

WORD OF WONDER: From Romans 12:2

Have you been weathering any storms lately? The storms in life can be rough. They can shake your confidence, wreak havoc on your relationships, and cause you to question everything. Scripture warns us that storms will come. When they do, meditate on God’s promises. He won’t leave you during your storm; He’ll be right there beside you.

Paul saw his share of storms (both literally and spiritually). Throughout his ministry, Paul was beaten, mocked, and imprisoned almost more times than we can count. But there was one constant throughout: he never gave up. He never stopped doing the work God called him to do; he never called it quits in the midst of a storm. Look at Paul’s encouraging words to the others on the ship with him during a physical storm in [Acts 27:25](#): “So keep up your courage” (NIV). Paul got it. He knew, that on his own, he didn’t stand a chance against the storm; but Paul wasn’t alone.

Whatever storm you are going through, know your survival isn’t dependent on you and your giftedness. As Paul reminds us again in [Ephesians 6](#), it’s not our battle. We merely need to stand firm and to take courage. Give your storms and battles to the Lord. He will never leave you. He will lead you, guide you, and see you through ... so take courage.

—Amber Pike

Kidmin Leader and Author

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DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Luke, author of both the Gospel of [Luke](#) and [Acts](#), writes in the first-person voice only in the final chapters of Acts (the “we” passages). Many Bible commentators take this to mean that Luke was a travel companion of Paul and present during these events.

WHAT?

Paul's elevated status meant that a centurion guarded him. This centurion saved his life, for whereas the other soldiers were planning to kill the prisoners, Paul's guard persuades them to trust the prisoners to swim—requiring that their chains be removed ([Acts 27:43](#)).

WHERE?

When the ship came to rest on the island of Malta ([Acts 28:1](#)), it had traveled at least 600 miles from Crete. These are some of the most treacherous waters in the Mediterranean Sea.

WHEN?

A voyage after the feast of the Day of Atonement ([Acts 27:9](#)) means the ship was traveling to Rome as late as October, when the dangerous conditions of winter were already threatening. Travel by ship would become outright impossible in only a few short weeks.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

From [Luke 8:22–25](#), we know Jesus has the authority to command the winds and the waves. Like Jesus, who was able to sleep during a storm, Paul calmly urges his companions to eat and await God's deliverance ([Acts 27:33–34](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Stormy Weather

SUPPLIES: electric fans (at least 1), spray bottles with water

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Rain Sound Effect](#)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Prepare the [Rain Sound Effect](#). Fill spray bottles with water.

Welcome! We are so glad you came to church today! Today, we are learning about how God was with a man named Paul even through a scary storm. Let's imagine what it might be like to be on a ship in the middle of a storm. I've got some things that can help pretend to be in a storm at sea while we're here!

Create a simulated storm by playing the Rain Sound Effect, turning on the fans to be the wind, and lightly spraying water into the air with the spray bottles. Invite the kids to rock back and forth as they pretend they're on a boat in a storm at sea.

Make It Virtual!

This activity would work in a digital or virtual ministry. Simply play the Rain Sound Effect and blow the fan at yourself while someone off camera sprays water on you. To make it more fun, you could wear a poncho or raincoat. Tell the kids you're learning about someone who was in a storm at sea.



Belief

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that, when we are scared, knowing You are with us through Your Spirit gives us courage. Build our trust that You are with us and that You love us. Help us have courage through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Acts 27:13 - 28:10

Paul clung to a chunk of wood as he drifted ashore. The battered ship he had been sailing on crashed against the rocks near the Island of Malta. Thankful to be alive, Paul crawled onto the beach.

By God's mercy all 276 men survived the ship wreck. It was just as the angel had told Paul: "Do not be afraid, Paul...God has shown his grace by sparing the lives of all those sailing with you."

It was cold and raining, so the men built a campfire. As Paul added more sticks to the campfire, a snake darted out and bit Paul's hand!

He flicked the deadly snake off his arm, but the native people watched and worried. How long until Paul

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started to swell up and suffer from the poison?

Miraculously Paul was fine. Nothing happened to him. The people were amazed.

During the three months that Paul stayed with the people of Malta, he healed them of their sicknesses and diseases. And he told them about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.

—from Romans 12:2b NiRV

Repeat the verse with the kids.



Identity

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for giving us courage through His Holy Spirit.

God, thank You for being our place of safety. We know You are always with us, through Your Holy Spirit. Because You are with us, we can have courage even when life gets hard. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God bless you with His presence. May His Holy Spirit give you courage during every scary situation in your life.

Closing Activity: Sailing on the Sea!

SUPPLIES: blanket or bed sheet

Lay a blanket (or sheet) on the floor to act as the “ship” in this game. Invite the kids to “board the ship” and sit down on the blanket.

When Paul's ship experienced bad weather, Paul helped the sailors and the commander know what to do. In this game, I will give you some commands to follow related to sailing on the sea. See if all of you can work together as a team and do them at the same time. If I yell, “Shipwreck,” you should make a swimming motion.

Row the boat: Make a rowing motion.

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Hoist the sails: Makes fists and have their fists move in a downward motion, one over the other, like pretending to pull a rope.

Feel seasick: Grab stomach and moan.

Fish for food: Place both hands above one shoulder and make a forward-throwing motion.

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Sharks: Make a surprised or scared face.

Call out different actions for the kids to follow. Don't forget to call out "Shipwreck" from time to time. If you have time, allow kids to take turns calling out the commands.

Make It Inclusive!

If you have a kid unable to sit in the ship or participate in the actions, invite her to help you call out the actions.