



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

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: blue blanket or sheet, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Paul's Shipwreck Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Rolling Ocean Storm

Set-up: Lay a blue blanket (or sheet) down with a toy boat in the middle.

Play: Instruct the kids to grab a corner of the blanket (or sheet) and move it up and down gently, creating "waves," and see how the boat is tossed by the storm.

Play Station: Paul's Shipwreck Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a boat.



9:00 Service

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

9:00 Service

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.



Faith

LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Craft: Rain Sticks

SUPPLIES: cardboard tube (paper towel size, 1 per kid), aluminum foil (1 sheet per kid), dry rice, dry beans, duct tape, paper (1 sheet per kid), scissors, markers (optional)

Today, we'll decorate our own rain sticks to remind us of how we can have courage in scary situations, like Paul had courage through the storm. Every time you use your rain stick, remember how God is with you through His Holy Spirit. Knowing God is with us gives us courage!

Let kids use crayons or markers and the stickers provided to decorate their rain sticks. Remind them not to pull on the tape at the ends so that the rice inside does not fall out.

Now that you have a rain stick, turn it upside down to allow the rice to fall through the tube and listen carefully. It should sound like rain. Take this home as a reminder that God is with you and can give you courage even when you face things that are scary.



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: Ocean Waves

SUPPLIES: blue crepe paper streamers, scissors (optional)

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

Before you begin, cut or tear off one piece of blue streamer per kid. Play the [Rain Sound Effect](#).

Do you hear the storm sounds? Encourage the kids to pause and listen to the storm sounds. **Let's make waves in an ocean! Wave your streamer up, down, and all around. Do we look like ocean waves? Awesome! These waves look like the ocean Paul was sailing on during the storm.**

Give each toddler a blue streamer. Encourage the kids stand up and move around the room while waving their streamers to become "ocean waves." Help them see that with everyone waving streamers, your room has been transformed into the ocean!