



BIG IDEA

True story—God helps us share the good news.

BIBLE

Paul and the Shipwreck: Acts 27:13–44; Matthew 28:16–20

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Every adventure has unexpected setbacks and obstacles that make the journey harder than expected. This week, we'll see how Paul faced a terrifying shipwreck as a prisoner on his way to Rome but never stopped trusting God and sharing the good news with those around him. His story reminds us that no matter what challenges we face, **true story—God helps us share the good news.**

WHAT? What are we talking about?

MUSIC | The Worship Quest

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite kids to worship together with 2-3 songs you all love! Check out the *Environment* section of the lesson guide for a suggested list of songs that align with this month's teaching.
- Some of the best adventure stories are about heroes on a quest. Their mission feels impossible, but they keep going, even when things go wrong. They know their mission is important!
- The Early Church had a mission: to share the good news about Jesus. This mission continued even during storms—sometimes actual storms! With God's help, they shared Jesus' love no matter what happened. Let's see how today's adventure unfolds!

ACTIVITY | The Captain's Lost Library

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, use painter's tape to outline a large area as a "boat." Scatter 40 to 50 books in the area to create a shipwreck. Mark zones (see below) with tape every three to five feet from the shipwreck to the starting line. Divide kids into teams at the starting line. One player from each team must cross the zones, retrieve a book, and return it to their team. The next teammate repeats the process. Continue until all the books have been collected. The team with the most books wins! Assign each zone a theme and an action kids must complete to pass:
 - **Stormy Seas (lightning bolt):** Roll sideways across this zone.
 - **Rocky Waters (jagged circles):** Tiptoe across.
 - **Deadly Whirlpool (spiral swirl):** Spin around three times before leaving this zone.
 - **Sea Turtle Crossing (turtle):** Crawl on hands and knees.
 - **Ice Shelf (snowflake):** Freeze for five seconds before leaving this zone.



See the
Accessibility
Hacks!





See the Accessibility & Preteen Hacks!

- Okay adventurers, let's turn the page. You were deckhands on the captain's ship. A storm hit and shipwrecked your vessel! The good news is that you're safe and there's a nearby island for refuge. The bad news is that the Captain's library is scattered in the sea.
- The captain's orders are to save as many library books as possible. Travel through dangerous waters, grab one book at a time, and bring it safely to the island. The crew that saves the most books from the Captain's Lost Library wins!

ACTIVITY | Race To Shore

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, provide a small paint tarp for each team of five to eight players. Have one team stand on one side of the room (sea). The goal is to get to the other side of the room (shore) by moving together on their tarp (raft). Nobody can step off the tarp. So be creative and strategic to move forward together without falling off!
- Phew—you made it to shore, adventurers! You could have easily given up on such a challenging task. But you moved your team across the sea. You kept moving forward to complete your mission.
- Today we'll hear a story about how Paul didn't even let a shipwreck stop him from telling as many people as possible about what Jesus did for us.

POLL | Would You Rather: Shipwreck Edition

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids "swim" to one side or the other based on your indicated answer choices. To extend the activity, after each question, ask a few kids why they chose their answer.
- Let's pretend we were all part of a shipwreck. Thankfully, everyone is safe. But now we have some tough choices to make. So we are going to vote!
- **Would you rather...**
 - **Face one great white shark or 100 piranhas as you swim to shore?**
 - **Eat only bananas or coconuts for a year?**
 - **Have a talking parrot or a monkey that doesn't talk for company?**
 - **Sleep on the beach by the shore or inside a cave on the island?**
 - **Be stranded alone with all the supplies you need or with friends but no supplies?**
 - **Discover a treasure chest filled with gold or a refrigerator filled with food?**
 - **Be stuck with ten different books or one favorite book?**
 - **Build a boat or a plane to escape?**
 - **Be rescued by pirates or mermaids?**
- These aren't easy choices, but they help us imagine the hard decisions in today's story. In the story, the people on a sinking ship have a choice. They can try to save themselves or listen to Paul, and God will rescue them. Let's find out more!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?**SCRIPTURE | Acts 27:13–44 (Paul and the Shipwreck)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the given Scripture and points. To connect your storytelling with the theme, gather adventure books. Spread them around the table to create the feel of a library of adventure! As you tell the story, ask kids to pantomime along to create a living "pop-up book."
- Okay adventurers, we're about to hear a *true story*! Jesus came back to life and went up to heaven. He left them the power of the Holy Spirit to spread his message to the world.
- Paul, one of Jesus' followers, was on a mission to spread Jesus' message far and wide.
 - Part of that message was that Jesus is Lord. This means he is the ruler of all.
 - But in Rome, people believed that Caesar was lord. So they arrested Paul and sent him on a prisoner ship. He headed to trial before Caesar himself. Paul then tried to share Jesus' message on the prisoner ship.
- We will read a Bible story and make a living pop-up book! You'll recreate the scenes from the story. I'll tell you an action to perform. When I say "pop up," you'll stand and do the action. Then you'll sit back down. Are you ready?
- **The epic adventure starts in Acts 27:13–20.**
 - **Pop up! Sway side-to-side like you're being tossed back and forth by a wild storm at sea.**
 - Paul's ship sailed into a terrible storm. The waves slammed against it, and everyone panicked! They threw cargo overboard to keep the ship afloat. **What cargo do you think they threw?**
 - Still, the chances of survival looked slim.
- **Will they make it? Let's find out in Acts 27:21–26.**
 - **Pop up! Stand on your chair or as tall as you can. Cup your mouth with your hands... Paul gave a speech to the people on board.**
 - Paul said, "Don't be afraid." He told them an angel of God visited him and promised they would all survive. But the ship might not make it.
 - **Do you think they believed Paul? Why might they doubt him?**
- **The journey continues in Acts 27:27–32.**
 - **Pop up! Pretend to saw thick rope, like the soldiers cut the lifeboats free to escape.**
 - The sailors were so scared that they tried to escape in the lifeboat. But Paul told them that everyone needed to stay together to survive. They listened to Paul, even though he was a prisoner. They cut the lifeboat loose, though it might be their last chance of survival.
- **Let's turn the page to Acts 27:33–38.**
 - **Pop up! Rub your stomach... the people on the ship haven't eaten for days!**
 - Paul encouraged everyone to eat so they would have strength. After they ate, they threw the rest of the grain into the sea. They hoped to lighten the ship, trusting that God would help them.

- **Let's flip to the final chapter of this wild adventure—Acts 27:39–44.**
 - **Pop up! Pretend to swim to shore after the shipwreck, moving your arms like you're paddling through the waves.**
 - The ship hit the rocks and broke apart. Everyone made it to shore safely, just as God had promised. Not one life was lost!
 - Even after being arrested and hauled off to trial before Caesar, even after encountering a hurricane-like storm, Paul kept sharing the good news that God was giving him. And God helped Paul's mission, even through a shipwreck!
- We may never experience a shipwreck like Paul did, but we will face problems. They might come while we're trying to share Jesus' love with others. But God helps us. So we can share the good news at every turn of the page in our adventure story with God!



See the Preteen Hacks!



BIG IDEA | True story—God helps us share the good news.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather index cards, a marker, and adventure books. Write each word of the Big Idea on an index card. Hide the cards in different books in the stack. Invite kids to pick a book, flip through it, and find a card. Continue until all words are found. Then, the kids will order the cards to reveal the Big Idea.
- Join me on a quest for today's Big Idea! Turn the pages of these adventure books to find all the words and put them in order.
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**



See the Accessibility Hacks!



VIDEO | A Clip From Harold And The Purple Crayon

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play this [short clip](#) from [Harold and the Purple Crayon](#) or something like it, where Mel uses the purple crayon's power.
 - View the clip beforehand to ensure it's a good fit for your context. [Read this](#) for more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes.
- Harold and his purple crayon inspired others to be creative and believe anything's possible.
- Harold began as a character in a storybook. But when he and his purple crayon escaped the book and came into the real world, strange things happened. He became friends with a kid named Mel and shared the crayon with him.
 - Ever since his dad died, Mel was sad and lonely. He kept a whistle that was supposed to summon an imaginary friend, Carl. That was something special he and his dad shared. Nobody else believed him, though, and the other kids teased him.
 - Mel believed Harold's story and the crayon's power. That was all it took—Mel brought Carl to life!
- Sometimes, when we share the good news about Jesus, people might not understand. They might not believe us right away or think we're strange. Paul's shipwreck, along with Mel and Harold's purple crayon, remind us not to lose hope. The message of Jesus is worth sharing, even when it's difficult!
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**



OBJECT LESSON | Favorite Books

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this object lesson, you'll need to bring your favorite book. Explain why you love it. Then ask kids to share about their favorite books.
- Okay adventurers, this is one of my all-time favorite books.
 - **Do you have a book that is your all-time favorite?**
 - **Why is it your favorite?**
 - **What is the best part of the story?**
- When you have a favorite book, it's really hard *not* to tell others about it. You want more people to read it so you can talk about how awesome the book is with more people.
- The good news of Jesus is like this: It's the best story ever! It has love, defeat, and ultimate victory. I mean, today's story even had a shipwreck! God made the good news of Jesus an awesome story so that we would want to share it. When we truly see God's story as this epic adventure, we'll find that talking about the Bible can be so easy and fun.
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 28:16–20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need the [handout](#) provided and a Bible. Project the handout onto a dry-erase board. Ask kids to call out what word they think belongs in each blank. Give examples of parts of speech to help them get started. After they give a few suggestions, write the correct word from the passage with a dry-erase marker.
- One way we can grow in our adventure story with God is by learning as much as we can from the Bible!
- In this passage, Jesus gave his friends an important mission—to share the good news. But his friends were far from perfect. Some doubted Jesus, and some even ran away when Jesus was taken. But Jesus chose them to continue his work.
- Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." He had the power to do anything, but he chose them to deliver the good news. He assured them that he would always be present through the Holy Spirit after he went to heaven.
- God doesn't only ask certain types of people to share the good news. All that's needed is for us to say yes, and *go!* God gives us the help we need to do the rest.
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 5)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#). If you're short on time, show the illustrated [Bible story video](#).

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?



Share Your Story

REFLECTION | All The Story Feels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a few instrumental tracks from your favorite original soundtrack (OST) or a playlist ([like this](#)). Have kids listen for a minute before reflecting and sharing.
 - Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. [Read this](#) for more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes!
- A great adventure story makes you feel something—maybe a lot of things. Feelings help us connect with the characters, understand their journey, and relate it to ours.
- The people in today's Bible story probably had many feelings, too.
 - **Have you ever shared the good news with someone? Or has someone shared it with you?**
 - **When you think about telling someone about Jesus, how do you feel?**
 - **What "storms" are you or someone you know facing right now?**
 - **The people on the ship trusted Paul's words, even though they seemed strange. What can you do to show others you trust God, no matter what's happening?**
- Adventurers, sharing the good news about Jesus can be a scary page to turn for anyone. We may assume that Paul wasn't scared, but that probably wasn't true. Feeling nervous about sharing the good news is okay. But Paul kept going, and you can too.
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**



See the Preteen Hacks!

RESPONSE | My True Story Book

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather blank paper, staplers, and writing or decorating supplies. Kids will make storybooks by folding two pieces of paper in half. They will staple along the fold to form a spine. Have kids write the Big Idea on the cover. Use the prompts below for the right-side pages. For kids who join every week, collect and combine their weekly pages to form one big book:
 - Label the Big Idea covers as "chapters."
 - Stack the weekly pages, punch holes along the spine, and bind them with ribbon.
 - Fold a page over the weekly half-pages to form the front and back cover.
- How can the Bible story guide us to write our own true stories? Each page of your True Story book tells about your journey with God!
 - **On the cover,** write the Big Idea: **True story—God helps us share the good news.** Feel free to get creative!
 - **On page 2,** pretend you're writing a headline for a news story. Write or draw a good news headline about Jesus (like "Jesus Loves Everyone!" "God Saves the World!" "Jesus Provides Light in Darkness").
 - **On page 3,** draw a circle, and inside it, write names or draw pictures of people you can share the good news with.

- **On page 4**, write or draw one thing you can do this week to share the good news with someone.
- Take this True Story book with you as a reminder. God is with you at every turn of the page. God will be there when you share the good news with each person in this book, because it's God's story!
- **True story—God helps us share the good news.**

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 1:16a (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us such an amazing story to share with others. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Help us have the courage to share that good news with as many people as we can. If we get scared or nervous, help us to remember that you are always right there guiding us through. Amen.