



# LIFE Group Discussion Guide

April 19, 2026

Acts 28:1-16

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?
- What Scripture has been shaping you recently?
- Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?
- What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?
- What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?
- What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?
- What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

## OPENING

What's something unexpected that happened to you recently—something you didn't plan but had to deal with anyway?

We usually like control. We like plans. We like knowing what's next. But following Jesus doesn't mean life always goes how we expect. In this passage, Paul survives a shipwreck, gets stranded on an island he never planned to visit, and still sees God do incredible things.

Today we'll discover:

**God is still working—even when life feels off track.**

## SCRIPTURE

Read **Acts 28:1–16** together.

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## **PASSAGE SUMMARY**

Paul survives the shipwreck, lands on Malta, experiences God's protection from the snake bite, ministers to people there, and is later encouraged by believers as he continues toward Rome. What looked like a setback was actually part of God's purpose.

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## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**If you had just survived a shipwreck like Paul, what would you want to do first—rest or serve? Why?**

Most would want to rest. Paul shows faithfulness and a servant mindset instead of focusing on comfort.

**Paul immediately begins helping gather wood (v.3). What does that show about his character?**

Humility, willingness to serve, and consistency in living out his faith—even in hard moments.

**The islanders assumed the snake bite meant Paul was doomed. Why do we sometimes assume bad things mean God isn't at work?**

We focus on circumstances instead of trusting God's bigger plan.

**Instead of stopping Paul, this moment gave him influence. How can God use hard or awkward situations in our lives for good?**

Hardships can open doors, build character, and give us chances to show faith in action.

**Paul didn't plan to go to Malta, but God used him there. What are places in your life you didn't choose but God may want to use?**

School, responsibilities, relationships, or difficult seasons can all be mission fields.

**Believers came to encourage Paul (v.15). Why is encouragement from other Christians important?**

We need support to stay strong in faith; God often uses people to help us persevere.

**How can you be someone who encourages others this week?**

Pray for someone, send an encouraging message, invite a friend, or simply show kindness.

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## **DIG DEEPER**

**Do you tend to see daily life as something to "get through" or as something God wants to use?**

Help students recognize that following Jesus includes normal days, not just church events. God works in hallways, practices, conversations, and routines.

**What would change if you believed God had you exactly where you are for a reason?**

Students may say they would:

- Complain less
- Pay attention to others more
- Be bolder about faith
- Look for opportunities instead of waiting for them

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## APPLICATION

**What is one “unexpected situation” in your life right now that you need to start seeing as an opportunity instead of a problem?**

Help students identify something current and personal.

**What is one practical way you can serve or represent Jesus in that situation this week?**

Encourage specific action (not vague ideas).

**Who is one person you can intentionally encourage in their faith over the next few days? What will you do?**

Push toward measurable follow-through (text, conversation, prayer, invitation).

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## CLOSING THOUGHT

Challenge students to reflect silently for a moment:

- Where has life not gone the way you expected lately?
- Could God want to use you right there instead of waiting for things to change?

Paul didn’t waste the detour—he trusted that God was still leading.

Encourage students this week to ask:

***“God, how can You use me right here?”***

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Next week: **Acts 28:17–31** — Paul finally reaches Rome and boldly continues sharing Jesus, proving that nothing can stop God’s mission.

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## PRAYER FOCUS

Pray together:

- Thank God that He is always working, even when we don’t see it.
- Ask Him to help students trust Him in unexpected situations.
- Pray that they would see their daily lives as places to live on mission.

- Pray specifically for the invitation portion of our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

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## COMMENTARY

### Acts 28:1-16

**28:1-10** The ship on which Paul was traveling as a prisoner wrecked on the island of Malta, which is south of Sicily. Paul immediately impressed the island's inhabitants when God delivered him unharmed from a viper's bite. Paul carried out a ministry of healing among the islanders. In turn, they honored him in many ways.

**28:11-16** After the winter had passed and the seas were again safe for travel, Paul's party secured passage to Italy on another Alexandrian ship that had wintered on Malta. They sailed from Malta to Syracuse, the capital of Sicily, and from there to Puteoli, the main Italian port for the large grain ships. From Puteoli, Paul's party proceeded on foot the 130 miles to Rome. South of the city he was met by two separate groups of Roman Christians who had come out to greet him. Once in the city, Paul was allowed to live in an apartment rented at his own expense. He remained under military guard.