

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME

ACTS 27:8-44, 28:3-6, 28:16, 28:30-31

LEARN THE WORD

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

- After a stormy and dangerous journey as a prisoner, Paul arrived safely in Rome, just as God had promised.
- In Rome, while under house arrest, Paul preached the message of Jesus Christ to everyone who would come and listen.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose a Christian friend came to you and said she was really scared about what was happening in her life. She didn't even know if God was there.

What could you say?

I know you are scared, and it might seem like things may never get better. But you have to hang on to your faith—even when it feels like God is a million miles away. God is at work, right now, in your life. And because you believe in Him and trust in Jesus, you can know that He loves you and cares for you. In fact, sometimes God teaches the best lessons when we are in the worst place. He promises to show His strength when we are at our weakest. And He will give His children the grace they need to get through every situation. It is okay to feel scared, and it is good to talk to me and other friends about it. God wants us to help each other through tough times. We also need to pray. I'll pray that God gives you the grace and strength to get through each day. He will do it! He is faithful to His promises.

Activity: Paul trusted God's promise that he would make it to Rome safely. Circle the words from the lesson in the puzzle.



HOMEWOR FOR PARENTS

The Lord told Paul that he would testify in Rome (Acts 23:11). Finally, in God's perfect timing, Paul set off by ship to Rome, Italy (Acts 27:1). Because of slow passage at the beginning, Paul and the crew found themselves in a situation where sailing further would be dangerous. Ignoring Paul's warnings, the centurion in charge of Paul and the other prisoners was persuaded by the pilot and ship's owner to proceed (Acts 27:10-11). It wasn't long before they found themselves in a violent storm (Acts 27:14). They looked for protection, secured the lifeboat, undergirded the ship, and then lightened the ship by tossing cargo and tackle overboard. In spite of all of this, death looked imminent, and all hope was lost (Acts 27:15-20).

But God had promised that Paul would reach Rome (Acts 23:11), and God keeps His promises! Paul and all the crew at last found safety on the island of Malta after a dramatic shipwreck that included everyone abandoning ship (Acts 27:39-44).

God continued to protect His servant, Paul. The people on Malta showed unusual kindness to the shipwrecked crew (Acts 28:2). And when Paul was not affected by a viper's bite, the local people were convinced he was some kind of god (Acts 28:6). God also allowed Paul to do miracles in the name of Jesus, and he healed many who were sick (Acts 28:8-9). These events enabled him to proclaim the Gospel to the inhabitants of the island.

After three months on Malta, Paul sailed again and finally arrived in Rome where he was allowed to live by himself with a soldier guarding him (Acts 28:11-16). Paul continued his ministry, boldly testifying to the kingdom of God concerning Jesus Christ. And just as in all the other cities of Paul's travels, some were persuaded to believe, and some would not believe (Acts 28:23-24). Paul stayed for two full years in Rome in his rented home where God continued to use him to testify about the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:30-31).