

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)**

Lesson #97

DATE:

SUBJECT: Shipwrecked But Safe

SCRIPTURE: Acts 27

AIM: To show the children how God promised Paul that all the people in this sinking ship would reach land safely. He kept His promise, and not one person drowned!

MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 34:8a "O taste and see that the Lord is good..." or Psalm 50:15a "And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver you..."

CONTENT: When the time came for Paul to be sent to Rome, Festus turned him over to one of the captains of his guard, along with several other prisoners who were being sent to Rome at the same time. They went by ship from Caesarea and came the next day to the city of Sidon. Here they stopped for a while and the captain, whose name was Julius, treated Paul kindly, letting him go ashore to visit some of his friends.

Leaving Sidon they came to the city of Myra. There the captain placed his prisoners aboard another ship headed for Rome. After sailing slowly for several days they reached a place called Fair Havens, in the island of Crete. It was winter and the time for storms, and Paul said to the sailors, "Gentlemen, I prophesy that if we go on, there will be great danger not only to the ship but also to our lives." But the captain of the ship didn't believe Paul, and since Fair Havens wasn't a good harbor to stay in for the winter, he decided to leave it and to try to reach a place called Phoenix. The wind blew softly from the south that day, so everyone except Paul felt good about it. So, leaving Fair Havens, they sailed out to sea again.

But soon there was a storm, and the wind beat against the ship until the sailors could no longer steer, and they had to let the ship run before the wind. As they neared an island called Clauda, they wound cables around the ship to keep it from breaking to pieces. The storm grew worse, and the next day they threw out some of the cargo to make the ship lighter, to try to save it from sinking.

The storm kept on day after day. No one could see the sun, moon, or stars at any time, because of the dark clouds that covered the sky. Finally everyone gave up all hope, thinking they would surely be drowned.

But after they had eaten nothing for a long, long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Sirs, you should have listened to me and stayed at the island of Crete; then you wouldn't have come into this great danger. Nevertheless, don't be afraid, for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, though the ship will go down. Last night the Lord sent his angel to tell me, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will come safely to Rome and be brought before Caesar; and for your sake God will save the lives of all the men who are with you in the ship.' So, gentlemen, cheer up, for I believe what the angel told me. But we will be wrecked on an island."

On the fourteenth night of the storm, as the ship was driven along by the wind, the sailors thought they were near some land. They measured the depth of the water and found that they were right, for the water was getting shallower. They were afraid of rocks near the beach, so

they dropped four anchors out of the ship to keep it from being driven any further, and then waited for morning.

When it was morning Paul begged them all to eat something. “This is the fourteenth day since the storm began,” he said, “and in all that time you have hardly eaten anything. Please take some food, for not one of you will be hurt.” Then he took some bread and thanked God for it before them all, and began to eat. Suddenly everyone was more cheerful, and ate some too. Altogether there were 276 persons aboard. After they had eaten, they threw some of the cargo of wheat into the sea to lighten the ship even more.

When it was day, they saw the shore, but of course they didn’t know what country they had come to. There was an inlet in front of them, and they decided to try to head the ship into it so as to avoid the rocks along the coast. After they had pulled up the anchors and hoisted the sail they steered toward the land, but before they reached it the ship ran aground, and the front part was held fast on the bottom of the sea and couldn’t be moved, while the back part was broken by the great waves that dashed against it.

The soldiers shouted to the captain to have the prisoners killed for fear some of them might escape. But the captain wanted to save Paul and told them not to do it. He told those who could swim to jump in and get to shore. The others followed, clinging to boards and broken pieces of the ship. So everyone reached land safely.

SONG: #58, #51

58 JUST TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD

Just taste and see
That the Lord is good;
Just taste and see
That the Lord is good.
He’s good for you,
As He is for me;

So whatever you do,
Just taste and see.

51 GOD...

God is good, the sky is saying;
God is great, the hills declare;
God is love, the flow’rs are telling;
God is ‘round us ev’rywhere.

Taken from THE BOOK FOR CHILDREN by Tyndale House Publisher, Inc.