

LESSON 9: PAUL ENCOURAGES OTHERS DURING A SHIPWRECK

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 Acts 27

10/18/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 27
- In This Passage: Paul is being transported as a prisoner on a ship when a violent storm threatens to sink the ship. But God encourages Paul, letting him know that no one on the ship will die when the ship wrecks. Paul passes on that encouragement, and everyone gets safely to shore.
- Bible Point: God is encouraging...
- Application: ...so we encourage others.
- Summary Verse: "A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is encouraging.* A lot of kids wrestle with self-doubt and insecurity. (*Am I smart enough? Am I pretty enough? Am I strong enough? Do people like me?*) As you talk about God's encouragement, find ways to encourage kids. You'll set an example *and* give them words they need to hear.
- Think About: Think of three encouraging things people have said to you. Thank God for sending those encouraging words through other people.

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give you the right words so you can encourage kids with just what they need to hear.

Quick Tip

- As a Sunday school teacher, you might feel taken for granted by your kids. Maybe you don't get a lot of encouragement for what you do. So let us encourage you: You're doing God's work. You're making a lasting difference. You're touching kids' lives in ways you'll never know...but God knows. Thank you for all you do! Keep up the good work; you're amazing!

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids experience a dramatic sailing journey and shipwreck.

Supplies

- Bible
- hula hoops (1 for every 2 kids)
- paper wads
- grocery bags (1 for every 2 kids)
- box fans (at least 1)
- spray bottles of water
- yarn (one 5-foot piece for every 2 kids)
- flashlight
- snack

Easy Prep

- Plug in the fans.
- Put several paper wads in each grocery bag.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids spin plates on marbles.

Supplies

- disposable round plastic plates with a 1-inch edge (2 per child)
- marbles (15-20 per child)



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids receive encouragement from God's Word.

Supplies

- Bibles
- "God's Encouragement" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- paper
- markers



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids run an obstacle course with and without encouragement from others.

Supplies

- 8 hula hoops*
- 6 pool noodles
- painter's tape
- wide ribbon
- scissors
- 8 chairs
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Set up a fun obstacle course with these simple challenge stations set up a few feet away from each other. (See diagram below.)
 - Place 8 hula hoops on the floor in a grid of 2 hula hoops by 4 hula hoops.
 - Create a tunnel of pool noodles by taping the ends of the noodles to the floor in a series of arches spaced about a foot apart.

- Cut 3 lengths of ribbon to hang from the ceiling so that kids will need to jump progressively higher to touch the end of each ribbon. If your ceiling is too high, you could use blocks or books to create progressively higher hurdles to jump over instead.
- Place 8 chairs in a single file line spaced about 3 feet apart.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Hot & Cold.



CRAFT

Kids make magnetic pouches with words they can use to make encouraging sentences.

Supplies

- card stock (1 piece per child)
- rulers
- “Encouraging Words” handout (1 per child, printed on card stock) (download [here](#))
- clear page protectors (1 per child)
- adhesive magnets (two 1-inch pieces per child)
- markers
- scissors
- transparent tape

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for people who need encouragement.

Supplies

- craft sticks
- fine-tipped permanent markers

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids wave at three people they're not sitting near.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids say "drippy haybath" (the letters of "happy birthday" mixed up).
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God is encouraging, so we encourage others. In our Bible story, a guy named Paul encouraged people on a boat in the middle of a storm.**

Share

- Tell kids whether *you'd* rather sail on a boat, swim, or relax on shore (and why).
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share whether *they'd* rather sail on a boat, swim, or relax on shore (and why).
- After partners have discussed, have kids use gestures to show what they picked. Kids will rock back and forth if they chose "boat," doggy paddle if they chose "swim," and lean back and close their eyes if they chose "relax on shore."

Summarize

Open a Bible to Acts 27, and say: **On a nice sunny day, those all sound like fun activities. But in our Bible story, the weather was far from sunny. Those activities we just talked about would have been scary, and people needed encouragement. We'll see what the Bible says about how God is encouraging and sent encouragement. We know everything in the Bible is true and is from God, so let's take a moment to talk with God as we get started.**

Pray, praising God for his encouragement.



Supplies

- Bible
- hula hoops (1 for every 2 kids)
- paper wads
- grocery bags (1 for every 2 kids)
- box fans (at least 1)
- spray bottles of water
- yarn (one 5-foot piece for every 2 kids)
- flashlight
- snack

Easy Prep

- Plug in the fans.
- Put several paper wads in each grocery bag.

Tips

- This is an exciting story! Use a lot of expression to create a sense of drama.
- If you don't have enough hula hoops, tie ropes into circles.

Set Sail

Say: **Today's story is full of drama and action. It's the kind of thing you see in movies! We're going to act it out so you get the full effect of what happened.**

Have kids form same-gender pairs, and give each pair a hula hoop and a bag of paper wads.

Have partners both stand in their hula hoops and hold the hoops at waist level. The hoops will be their boats, and they'll carry the bag of paper wads with them.

Say: **Before our Bible story, Paul was put in prison for talking about Jesus. In today's story, Paul and several other prisoners were put on a boat to head to Italy, where they would stand trial.**

It's time to set sail in your boat! Have kids walk around the room in their boats.

Face the Wind

Say: **Soon, strong winds started blowing, and it was hard to keep the ship on course!** Turn on the fans. Have kids rock their boats a lot and walk around in jagged patterns as if they can't stay on course.

They tried to stay in the middle of the sea so they wouldn't crash into the land when the wind blew. Have kids rock their boats a lot and walk back and forth in the middle of the room.

They sailed very slowly and tried to stop at one place, but the wind blew them to another place! Have kids head to one wall and then sharply turn and head to the other wall.

They struggled against the wind, trying not to crash into the coast. Have kids act like they are struggling to keep their boats from crashing into the wall.

By now, their journey had taken longer than it should have. It was late fall, and more storms would be coming. It was a dangerous time to travel! So Paul had an idea.

Use a deeper voice to be Paul as you say: **Everyone, I think if we go on, we'll be in trouble. We might shipwreck, lose cargo, and put our lives in danger. Let's stop here.**

Use your regular voice and say: **Since Paul was just a prisoner, the officer in charge of the prisoners decided not to listen to him. Instead, he listened to the ship's captain and kept going. They were in a harbor that was a bad place to spend the winter, so they decided to keep going.**

Throw Cargo Overboard

Say: **That's when things got really bad. They pulled up anchor and started sailing along the shore again.** Have kids sail smoothly along the wall.

Shout: **But then the wind changed into a typhoon! The ship was blown out to sea. The waves were so high!** Have kids move to the middle of the room, rocking their boats hard. Spray them with water.

Some of the sailors got aboard the lifeboat behind the ship so they could tie ropes around the base of the ship to make it stronger. Have one child in each pair step out of the hula hoop. Distribute yarn, and have kids wrap it around the hula hoops and then get back in the boats.

Say: **The next day, they set sail again. But the winds and waves were so strong!** Spray kids as they rock their boats around the room.

The crew tried to make the ship lighter by throwing cargo overboard. Have kids throw their paper wads overboard as you spray them with water.

They even threw over important ship's gear! Have kids throw their shoes overboard.

But it didn't help. Listen to how bad things were. Whisper Acts 27:20.

Receive Encouragement

Say: **The storm raged on. Everyone was scared and hungry. But then God sent an angel to give Paul an encouraging message.**

Shine the flashlight over yourself to be the angel as you say: **Paul! Don't be afraid. You'll get to Italy and stand trial. In fact, God will keep everyone on your boat safe.** Turn off the flashlight.

Say: **God is encouraging, so we encourage others. That's what happened in the Bible! After God encouraged Paul, Paul told the rest of the passengers about God's encouragement.** Have pairs tell each other the encouraging news you just shared (in their own words).

Say: **Paul told everyone not to be afraid, and he said that although the ship would go down, everyone would be safe. But the storm wasn't over! In fact, the boat was blown so close to shore that when they measured it, the water was only 90 feet deep. It wouldn't be long before they crashed into the rocks! It was night, and with the clouds covering the moon it was so dark. They prayed for daylight.** Turn off the lights, and have kids rock their boats closer and closer to the wall as you spray them with water.

They also tried to abandon ship. They lowered lifeboats to get on them, but Paul told them if anyone got off the boat, they would die. So they cut the lifeboats away and stayed on the ship. Have kids pretend to cut lifeboat ropes off their hula hoops.

Eat

Turn on the lights, and say: **As the day dawned, Paul told everyone to eat. They hadn't eaten in two weeks, and they were getting weak. He reminded them not to worry, because no one would die. Paul knew God is encouraging, so we encourage others.**

Distribute a snack, and have kids eat. While they eat, have kids share about bad storms they've experienced. They can also share how their parents or other people encouraged them during a storm.

When kids have finished eating, say: **After eating, they threw the extra food overboard to lighten the ship even more.** Have kids throw any trash from their snacks overboard.

Crash the Boat

Say: **As the sun rose higher, they saw a beach and thought maybe they could crash the ship into it.** Have kids aim their boats straight for a wall.

But they hit a pile of rocks underwater and crashed the ship too early! Have kids "crash" their ships, then drop them.

The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners so they wouldn't swim to shore and escape. But the commanding officer said no. So everyone swam or held on to pieces of wood from the broken ship and floated safely to shore. Have kids pretend to swim or float to "shore" (a wall).

Encourage Others

Say: **God is encouraging, so we encourage others. God told Paul his plan to keep everyone safe, and Paul passed on that encouragement by telling the others on the boat. Think of something encouraging you know about God, maybe something from the Bible or something you've learned about him. Encourage others by sharing that good news!** Allow time for kids to encourage each other.

Say: **When we face scary times like Paul did, it's easy to focus on our fears. But God is always with us, and we can turn to him for encouragement. Then we can encourage others by sharing why we trust God! God is encouraging, so we encourage others.**

Have kids put their shoes back on and help you clean up the paper wads and trash.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Spin!

Supplies

- disposable round plastic plates with a 1-inch edge (2 per child)
- marbles (15-20 per child)

Tips

- We used a solid-colored plate on the bottom and a clear plate on top. It was fun to see the marbles move in a circle under the top plate. But two colored plates will work, too! Just make sure both plates are the same size.
- We found that our table wasn't a completely even surface. We had the best results when doing this experiment on the floor.

Spin Plates Without Marbles

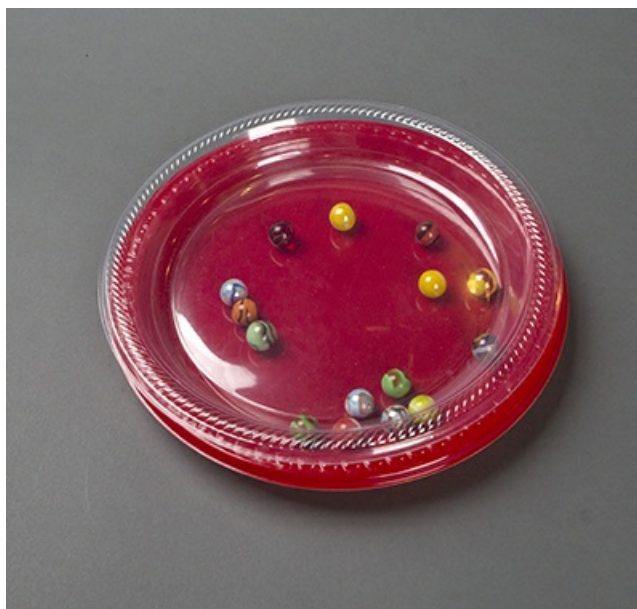
Give each child two plates, and have kids place one plate on top of the other, nested.

Say: **I have a challenge for you! Can you make the top plate spin inside the bottom plate? Only the top plate should rotate** Invite kids to try to spin the top plate. It will be difficult to spin only the top one.

Add Marbles

Say: **I think our top plates need a lift. Let's add some marbles and see what happens.**

- Have kids each put five marbles on the bottom plate and then set the other plate on top again.
- Show kids how to place an index finger on the edge of the top plate and move the plate in a circle until the plate spins on its own.



Say: **Now they're moving! Let's add more marbles and see how long our top plates can spin.**

- Have kids add more marbles and try spinning their plates again. Invite kids to experiment with more or fewer marbles and see how long they can make the top plates spin on their own.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the number of marbles impact your plate's spin?**

Say: **Like encouraging words lift our spirits, the marbles lifted the plates and helped them keep going. The more marbles, the better the spin. And the more encouragement we give, the more people are motivated to keep going, even when it's hard. In our Bible story, Paul encouraged the people on the ship more than once. His words kept them from stopping or giving up.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone encouraged you and kept you going. How did those words help you keep going?** Share an example from your own life to begin the conversation.

• **How can you be a “marble” and help someone keep going this week?**

Say: God is encouraging. He encourages us through other people, and we can be those encouragers and keep our friends going!



How Does God Encourage Us Today?

Supplies

- Bibles
- “God’s Encouragement” handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))
- paper
- markers

Set It Up

Say: **In the Bible, God encouraged Paul by speaking to him in a vision. And God still *could* encourage people that way...but does he? How does God encourage people today? Let’s dig in to that.**

There are a lot of ways God encourages us today. It could be through visions like Paul had, through feelings God puts in our hearts, or through other people. We’re going to look at a surefire way to turn to God when we need encouragement: the Bible!

Dig Deeper

Have kids form pairs, and give each child a “God’s Encouragement” handout. Have kids alternate reading the verses to their partners. The verses on the handout are as follows:

- Romans 8:28
- Matthew 5:4
- Matthew 11:28
- Joshua 1:9
- Philippians 4:13
- Isaiah 41:10
- John 16:33

If kids are looking up these verses in their own Bibles, encourage them to highlight or underline them so they stand out to them later. Challenge kids to continue to highlight or underline encouraging verses as they find more.

Ask: • **How did it feel to hear those encouraging words?**

• **Was there one verse that was especially encouraging for something you’re facing right now?**

Say: **God’s Word is full of encouragement. These verses are just the beginning! The Bible has encouragement whether you’re sad, sick, lonely, scared, or anything else! God is encouraging, so we encourage others. Let’s use his Word to encourage others.**

Draw a Meme

Give each child a piece of paper, and set out markers to share.

Say: **Think of someone you know who needs encouragement right now. He or she might be going through a hard time or might feel overwhelmed with too much to do. Pick one of the verses on your handout that you think would be most encouraging to that person, and write it at the bottom of your paper. Allow time.**

Say: **Now turn that Bible verse into a meme. A *meme* is usually a picture with a few words that gets spread from person to person. Sometimes memes go viral on the internet! So above the Bible verse, draw a picture that goes with the verse. Allow time.**

Say: **Let’s pray for the people who are going to get our memes.**

Pray: **God, thank you for encouraging us through the Bible. Thank you that it’s always there for us to look at and find your encouragement! We pray that you’ll encourage the people who receive our pictures. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

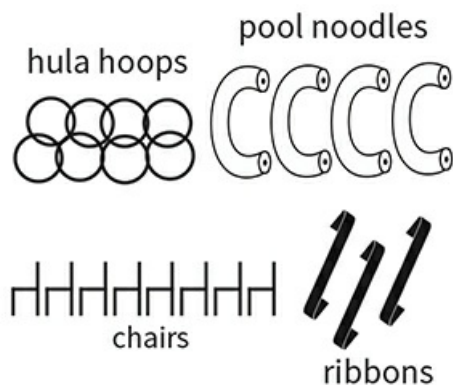


Supplies

- 8 hula hoops*
- 6 pool noodles
- painter's tape
- wide ribbon
- scissors
- 8 chairs
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Set up a fun obstacle course with these simple challenge stations set up a few feet away from each other. (See diagram below.)
 - Place 8 hula hoops on the floor in a grid of 2 hula hoops by 4 hula hoops.
 - Create a tunnel of pool noodles by taping the ends of the noodles to the floor in a series of arches spaced about a foot apart.
 - Cut 3 lengths of ribbon to hang from the ceiling so that kids will need to jump progressively higher to touch the end of each ribbon. If your ceiling is too high, you could use blocks or books to create progressively higher hurdles to jump over instead.
 - Place 8 chairs in a single file line spaced about 3 feet apart.



Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).
- If you don't have 8 hula hoops, you could use the painter's tape to create 8 circles on the floor instead.
- Depending on your space constraints, you may not be able to completely set this up before class. If that's the case, just hang the ribbon ahead of time and have kids help you set up the rest of the course when it's time to play.

Run the Obstacle Course and Encourage Others

Say: **Today we're discovering that God is encouraging! God can encourage us through each other, so let's play a game where you'll cheer each other on.**

- Form two roughly equal teams.
- Invite a willing adult or teen helper to demonstrate what to do at each obstacle course station.
 - At the hula hoop station, kids will high-knees run up the hula hoop grid, alternating feet and placing one foot in each hula hoop as they progress up the grid. (This is like drills football players often do with tires laid out on the ground.)

- At the pool noodle tunnel, kids will belly-crawl through all the noodles.
- At the ribbon station, kids will jump to touch the end of each ribbon.
- At the chair station, kids will weave back and forth between the chairs to the end of the line.
- Invite one team to line up near the hula hoop station and get ready to run the course.
- The other team can spread out around the course to cheer on the first team. Make sure there are a couple of people at the end of the chair obstacle to give high-fives at the finish.
- If you'd like, start some music to cue the first team to run the course. Help the teammates stagger their starts so that once one person has finished the hula hoop station, the next person in line starts it.
- Have your adult and teen helpers join the other team in cheering and encouraging everyone running the course.
- After everyone in the first team finishes the course, have teams swap roles and let the second team run the course while the first team cheers.
- Have teams swap again, but for the second round, have everyone keep the room as quiet as possible—no cheering or celebrating, and no music.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Which course run did you like more, and why?**

Say: **The encouragement and cheering made a big difference in the course! It was way more fun and exciting when others were encouraging you. You might have even moved faster when others were cheering you on.**

Ask: • **How does encouragement help you?** Share an example of your own of how encouragement helps you or makes you feel.

Say: **So much good comes from encouragement! God is encouraging, so we encourage others.**



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Guiding Encouragement

Play a Version of Hot & Cold

Say: **We're learning that God is encouraging. An awesome thing God's encouragement can do is guide us to what God knows is best for us. Let's play a game where some helpful encouragement will guide you!**

- For each round of this game, one person (the Seeker) will step into the hall. Everyone else will hide an object in the room. (The Seeker won't know what the object is.)
- The Seeker will return, and the other kids will guide him or her to find the object by clapping.
- When the Seeker is far away from the object, kids will clap very quietly or not at all.
- As the Seeker gets closer to the object, kids will clap louder and louder and can even cheer when the Seeker is about to find the object.
- Play as many rounds as time allows with a new Seeker for each round.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did encouragement guide you in the game?**

• **Tell about another time encouragement from God or another person helped you know what to do.** Share an example of your own first, such as God guiding and encouraging you about taking a job, what college to go to, or how to make new friends.

Say: **God's encouragement to Paul helped guide him in how to handle the storm. He knew everyone needed food and that no one should get off the ship before it crashed. When you're in a tough situation, listen for God's encouragement! Share it with others, too. God is encouraging, so we're encouraging.**



CRAFT

Encouraging Words Sets

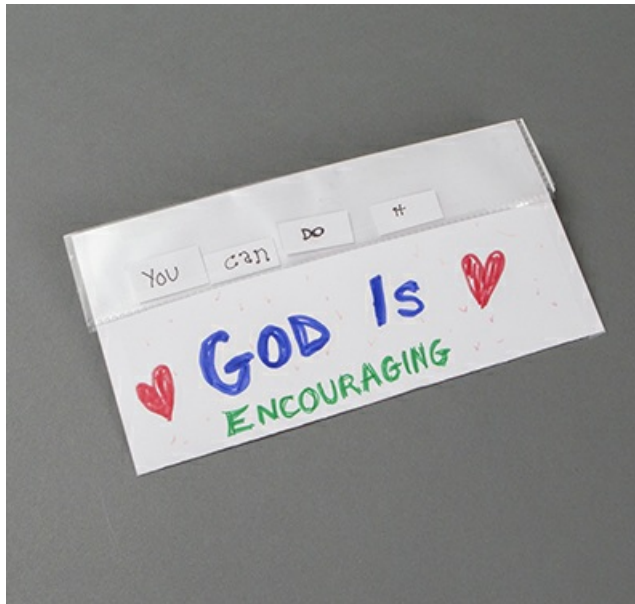
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Supplies

- card stock (1 piece per child)
- rulers
- “Encouraging Words” handout (1 per child, printed on card stock) (download [here](#))
- clear page protectors (1 per child)
- adhesive magnets (two 1-inch pieces per child)
- markers
- scissors
- transparent tape

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make a Magnetic Words Set

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child an “Encouraging Words” handout and a page protector. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make their own magnetic words sets.

- Cut off the bottom of a piece of card stock so that you have an 8½x7-inch piece remaining.
- Fold up the bottom 2½ inches of your card stock to make a pouch at the bottom. Tape the sides in place.



- Cut off the bottom 2 inches of a page protector, and keep it. You won't need the top.
- Tape the page protector pouch above your card stock pouch, in the space where the card stock was removed.



- Decorate the card stock pouch.
- Stick a 1-inch adhesive magnet piece to each side of the back of your card stock pouch.



- Cut apart the words on the “Encouraging Words” handout, and put them all in the card stock pouch.

Make Encouraging Sentences

- Have kids practice making encouraging sentences by picking out words from their card stock pouch and arranging them in the clear pouch above it.
- Kids could make sentences such as:
 - You can do it
 - I can help you
 - You are amazing
 - God will give you strength
 - Everything will be okay

Talk About It

Ask: • **Share some encouraging sentences you made with your magnetic words set.**

• **Tell about someone you know who needs to hear those words.**

Say: God is encouraging, so we encourage others. You can hang your encouraging words set on your fridge and make new encouraging sentences all week long! Be creative, and pay attention to what kind of encouragement people might need.

Have kids take their encouraging words sets home and display encouraging sentences for their friends and families.



Supplies

- craft sticks
- fine-tipped permanent markers

Make Boat Pieces

Say: **In our Bible story, Paul's ship crashed! Everyone had to swim to shore or hold on to a piece of wood from the broken boat to float to shore. Let's imagine we have pieces of the shipwreck as we pray for other people.**

- Set out craft sticks.
- Have kids think of people they know who need encouragement and write each person's name on a different craft stick.

Wrap Up

Say: **Let's get these people safely to shore by praying for them!** Have kids stand on one side of the room and walk slowly across the room, carrying the sticks as they silently pray for the people whose names they wrote on their sticks.

When kids get to the other side, pray: **God, thank you for being so encouraging! Help us pass on your encouragement to those who need it, just like Paul did. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week. Encourage kids to take their sticks home as a reminder to pray for those people all week long.