

LESSON 9: PAUL ENCOURAGES OTHERS DURING A SHIPWRECK

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Adventure

 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 act out the story and encourage each other.

Supplies

- Bible
- painter's tape
- fan with at least 2 settings
- spray bottle of water
- paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- scrap paper
- crackers (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Create 1 piece of "cargo" per child by stuffing paper lunch bags with scrap paper and folding the tops closed.
- Use the painter's tape to create 2 "boats" on the floor large enough to fit all your kids. Scatter the "cargo" in one of the boats.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pretend to be on a boat and pray.

Supplies

- taped boat outlines from Core Bible Discovery



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)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids pretend to hop on islands.

Supplies

- large paper plates (1 per child)
- painter's tape*
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Tape 2 parallel lines on the floor about 10 feet apart. Make the lines as long as necessary for the size of your group, allowing about 1 foot per child.
- Next, tape paper plates to the floor between the 2 lines, spacing them so kids will be able to hop from plate to plate to get from one line to the other.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Hot & Cold.



CRAFT

Kids make magnetic word sets.

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.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids encourage a balloon to move across the room.

Supplies

- Bible
- balloons (1 for each group of 5 or 6, plus a few extra)
- marbles (1 for each group of 5 or 6)
- painter’s tape*

Easy Prep

- Place a marble in a balloon and then inflate it.
Make enough marble-balloons for each group of 5 or 6 to have 1.
- Put 2 lines of tape across the floor on opposite sides of the room.

**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.



OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

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'll find out that God is encouraging. *Encourage* means to help people feel better when they're sad or worried and to give them strength to do something hard. God encourages us all the time, and we can encourage others, too. Today we'll read in the Bible about a man named Paul who encouraged others when they were in a boat in a scary storm. Let's start today by talking about water and boats. We'll all get to share whether we'd rather be on a boat, swimming in the water, or on a beach.**

Share

- Share where *you'd* rather be and why. You might rather be swimming because you love to feel the water and splash in it. Or you might rather be lying on a beach soaking in sun.
- Ask: • **Where would *you* rather be? Would you rather be on a boat, swimming in the water, or on a beach away from the water?** In small groups, have kids share where they'd rather be and why. Kids might share that they haven't learned to swim yet so they'd rather be on a boat, enjoying the water. Or they might share that they'd rather be on a beach because they love to build sandcastles.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Thanks for sharing. Sometimes we don't want to do something because it seems scary—we'll read about some men in the Bible who were scared on a boat because there was a big storm. But God led his friend Paul to encourage them, and God encourages us, too, when we're worried or scared. Let's read more about how God is encouraging in the Bible.**

Pray, thanking God that he's encouraging to us.

**Paul Encourages Others During a Shipwreck (Acts 27)**

Supplies

- Bible
- painter's tape
- fan with at least 2 settings
- spray bottle of water
- paper lunch bags (1 per child)
- scrap paper
- crackers (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Create 1 piece of “cargo” per child by stuffing paper lunch bags with scrap paper and folding the tops closed.
- Use the painter's tape to create 2 “boats” on the floor large enough to fit all your kids. Scatter the “cargo” in one of the boats.

Sail in Calm Waters

Say: **Today we'll find out that God is encouraging. That means God helps us feel better when we're worried or afraid, and he helps us know everything is going to be okay.**

Open the Bible. Say: **The Bible tells about a time God's friends Paul and Luke were on a big boat headed to a new place. There were lots of people on the boat with them. Let's fill up this boat with all our friends here.** Lead kids to get into the boat you made ahead of time that doesn't have any cargo.

Say: **Let's head off to a new place—be encouraged because God's with us and he'll take care of us!** Lead kids in pretending to row for about 15 seconds.

Say: **Feels like we're moving now. The people in the Bible—Paul, Luke, and all the others—sailed for one day.** Lead kids in pretending to row again as you say: **Paul was on the boat because he was a prisoner, even though Paul hadn't done anything wrong.**

After a day of sailing, the boat stopped in a place called Sidon (SY-don) where the prison guards let Paul get off and spend time with his friends. Lead kids in stepping out of the boat. Allow kids to spend a few minutes together as friends. Encourage them to tell about their week if they aren't sure what to talk about.

Say: **Paul's friends took care of him and gave him the things he needed. They were encouraging like God is encouraging. God helped Paul's friends know how to be encouraging. They might've given him something to eat, and they might've helped him bandage a wound. It's nice to encourage others by taking care of them.**

Sail in a Storm

Say: **That same day, Paul got back on the boat and it sailed some more.** Lead kids to climb back into the boat they were originally on. **This time, some strong winds started blowing.** Turn the fan on the lowest setting and direct it at kids. **The wind blew so strongly that the people couldn't make the boat go where they wanted it to.** Have kids sway back and forth. **Don't worry! Even though the winds are strong, we'll all be okay!**

Turn off the fan. Say: **Then they docked at a new place, and the soldiers moved the prisoners to a new boat that was heading where they needed to go.** Lead kids to climb out of the boat they're in and into the other boat with the cargo.

Say: **A new big boat might've been scary. They didn't even get to decide where they were going. But God is encouraging, and God was with them. And for several days the sailing was fine.** Pause. **But then it became windy again.** Turn the fan on low. **The weather got worse and worse!** Turn the fan on high, and spray kids with water as if waves are splashing into the boat. Have kids sway with bigger motions.

Say: **Paul told the captain, “There's trouble ahead. If we keep going, we'll wreck the boat!” But the captain didn't listen, and they kept going. And it became even more windy and even more wavy. The sailors threw all their things overboard to make the boat lighter so it wouldn't sink.** Lead kids to toss

each piece of cargo you made ahead of time overboard.

Say: **The crew on the boat were worried. They didn't eat for days—the storm went on for 14 days! Paul encouraged everyone by saying, "God is with us, and he's going to keep us safe." God even sent an angel to Paul who told him, "Don't worry!" And Paul used the courage God gave him to encourage the others.**

The sailors decided to drop an anchor into the water to see how deep the water was. The water was getting shallower, so they threw four anchors out of the boat on the other side to try to slow down the boat. Have kids pretend to pick up an anchor and toss it out of the boat.

Say: **Paul reminded everyone they'd been so worried that they hadn't eaten any food, so he broke some bread and thanked God for it, and he shared some with everyone.** Give each child a cracker to eat. **By sharing food, Paul encouraged them in the same way that God is encouraging.**

By the morning, they realized they were near some land, so they cut the anchors that were holding them back. But then they hit some sand under the water! The waves crashed against them, and the boat began to break apart. So some people jumped overboard and swam to shore. Others floated on pieces from the broken boat. Lead all the kids to hop out of the boat and pretend to swim to "shore," leading them to a new area of your room. Turn off the fan.

Say: **They made it to shore safely. Everyone was okay, just as Paul had told them they'd be!** Lead kids to cheer. **God was with them, and God encourages us to believe he's always with us, too.**

Encourage Each Other

Have kids sit in a circle. Say: **God likes when we encourage others like Paul did. Let's practice encouraging others right now.** Lead kids to do the following to practice being encouraging.

- Say: **Go tell someone something encouraging across the circle. If you don't know what to say, you can say, "God's always with you!"** Have all the kids get up and tell something encouraging to someone across the circle. Then have them sit in a circle again.
- Say: **Tell each of the people next to you, "God loves you!"** Have all the kids tell this to their neighbors without getting up.
- Say: **Give someone across the circle a high-five and say, "You're special!"** Have all kids get up and follow the instructions and then return to their seats.

If time allows, have kids encourage others some more. For example, kids might tell each other they're strong, they can trust God, or God takes care of them.

Say: **We can encourage others like God is encouraging. It feels nice to encourage others and to be encouraged!** Leave the taped boats in place for use in the Life Application Wrap-Up.



Supplies

- taped boat outlines from Core Bible Discovery

Pretend to Be in a Storm

Say: **Today we learned that God is encouraging, so we encourage others, too. We heard how some men were on a boat in a storm and really needed encouragement!**

Lead kids to pretend to get into a boat together. Then lead them in pretending they're in a storm by swaying back and forth and patting their knees to make rain sounds and saying "Crack!" to make thunder sounds.

Have kids freeze in place. Say: **God encouraged the men by giving them Paul, who let them know that God would take care of them. Sometimes we need encouragement from God, too. Sometimes we need encouragement because we're trying something new. Other times we need encouragement because we're scared or worried. God's always with us when our lives feels like a storm. And God reminds us we can be brave.**

Share about a hard time *you* or a loved one are going through that you want God's encouragement for.

Ask: • **What's something you want to ask God to encourage you about? You could ask God for encouragement for a worry you have or for God to encourage your family to get along.**

Lead kids in a brief prayer for the things they shared. Ask God for encouragement, and ask him to help you and the kids encourage others when they're feeling sad or worried.

Pretend to Be in Calm Waters

Say: **When we talk to God about our worries and fears, he'll encourage us. He can help us be calm even in a scary time. We might say he can "calm the waters."**

Lead kids in pretending to be in calm waters. Have them sway back and forth gently.

Say: **God encourages us, and we can encourage others, too. Let's thank God that he hears us and he'll encourage us when we ask for it.**

Lead kids in a brief prayer thanking God that he's encouraging.

Say: **I encourage *you* to remember God's with you this week and to encourage others, too. I hope you'll come back next week with stories about how you were encouraged and how you encouraged others!**



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

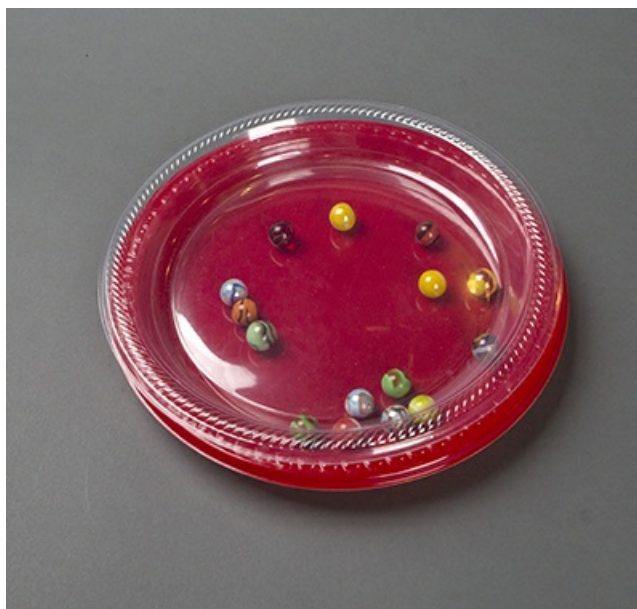
Give each child two plates, and have kids place one plate on top of the other, nested.

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 help your plate to 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: • 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!



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

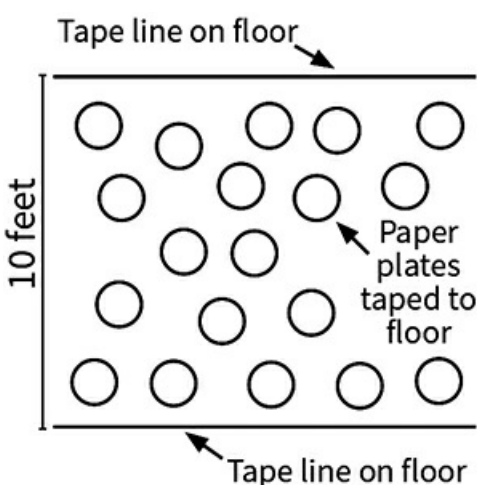
Island Hopping

Supplies

- large paper plates (1 per child)
- painter's tape*
- upbeat music
- music player

Easy Prep

- Tape 2 parallel lines on the floor about 10 feet apart. Make the lines as long as necessary for the size of your group, allowing about 1 foot per child.
- Next, tape paper plates to the floor between the 2 lines, spacing them so kids will be able to hop from plate to plate to get from one line to the other.



Tip

- 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](#).

Hop on Paper Plate "Islands"

Say: **In today's Bible story we read about how Paul encouraged everyone with him during a wild storm at sea. After their ship wrecked, everyone had to get to dry, safe land. Let's play a game where we'll pretend our ship has wrecked and we have to hop on little islands to get to dry land!**

- Have everyone line up along one of the lines—the "sinking ship."
- Point out the other line as the "dry land."
- Everyone will hop randomly from "island" to "island" (the paper plates) while the music plays. When the music stops, kids will hop quickly from island to island to get to dry land.
- Have all the adult and teen helpers stand behind the dry land line and cheer on the kids as they hop across.
- Play as many rounds as time allows, and vary the lengths of time you play the music.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like about the leaders cheering you on?**

Say: **It's awesome to be encouraged! We can do big, hard things when we're encouraged.**

Tell about a time *you* weren't willing to do something because you thought you couldn't, but after some encouragement you tried and succeeded—such as learning to swim or drive.

Ask: • **Tell about a time *you* tried to do something new.** Kids might tell about brushing their teeth, putting on their shoes, trying new food, or going to school for the first time. As they share, ask them about who encouraged them.

Say: **Encouragement can help us be brave and feel strong and safe. God is encouraging, and we can share the encouragement we get from God with 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

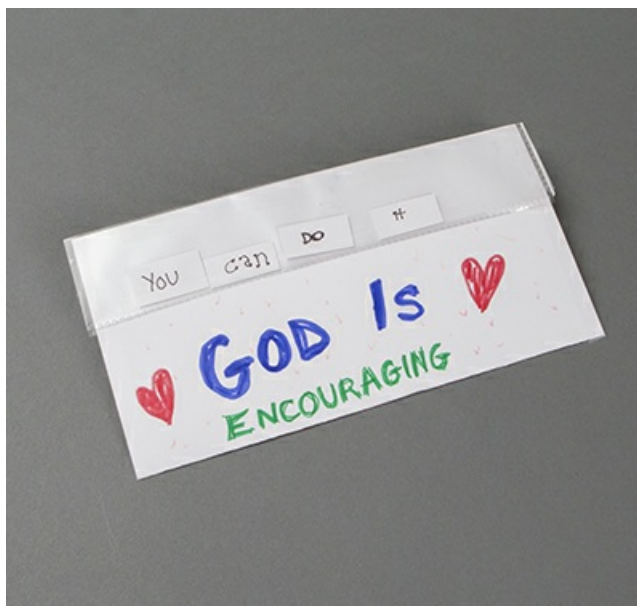
[20 min]

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 lead kids through these directions to make their own magnetic word 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

- Read all the words to kids to ensure they can identify them.
- Have adult and teen helpers guide kids as they practice making encouraging sentences by picking out words from their card stock pouches 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

- Bible
- balloons (1 for each group of 5 or 6, plus a few extra)
- marbles (1 for each group of 5 or 6)
- painter's tape*

Easy Prep

- Place a marble in a balloon and then inflate it. Make enough marble-balloons for each group of 5 or 6 to have 1.
- Put 2 lines of tape across the floor on opposite sides of the room.

Share About Encouragement

Say: **God wants us to encourage one another, just like he encourages us. Remember, we're encouraging by saying or doing something that helps someone else feel better or be brave.**

Share about a time *you* encouraged someone. It could be a time you comforted someone who was sad, helped someone feel better who was sick, or encouraged someone to believe that they could do something hard. Tell the kids how you felt when you were encouraging.

Ask: • **When have *you* encouraged someone?** Help kids get started, if needed. They might say they gave someone a hug when that person was sad, visited someone who was sick, or said something kind to a friend. Encourage the kids to share how encouraging someone made them feel.

Say: **Let's practice being encouragers right now.**

Race Balloons

Divide the kids into groups of five or six. Give each group a marble-balloon. Have each group line up on one side of the room behind the first tape line. Say: **When I say "go," one person from each group is going to try to kick the balloon to the other side of the room. These balloons are a bit different, so that might be hard. The rest of the kids in the group will encourage their teammates to keep going.** Invite kids to talk about ways they can encourage their teammates using their hands, feet, voices, or other things.

Have each child take a turn kicking the balloon across the room while his or her teammates cheer. Encourage teams to use various kinds of encouragement and be the most enthusiastic group.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What was your favorite way to cheer your friends on?** Give the kids a chance to tell which of the different types of encouragement was their favorite.

Say: **God loves it when we encourage each other.** Open the Bible and read 2 Corinthians 13:11b. **We can be thankful that God's with us when we encourage each other. Let's thank Him that he is always encouraging us and that we can encourage each other, too!**