

Hey ClubE!

As always, our focus is making sure that we are prayerfully asking God to teach us this morning. Are you ready to take on the challenge? Are you ready to learn and then do what the Lord has for you? We are learning about one man in particular that listened and was asked to do some pretty wild things but the reward was oh, so sweet.

1. Watch my [short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today.
2. Sharing time. Our question today: What's your favorite movie?
3. Read the story together as a family (or listen to it [here](#) ) & go through the discussion questions to talk about what you've learned.
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Optional: Do activity/game!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me [cas66852@gmail.com](mailto:cas66852@gmail.com) or text/call at 612-310-2363

## Storytime!

Hey, everybody! There's a guy we can read about in the Bible who went through a LOT of wild things in his life. We've talked about a lot of those things already as we've gone through God's Big Story. This man I'm talking about is the apostle, Paul. And it's true, Paul had some CRAZY things happen to him. It seemed like he was almost always in danger because he taught so boldly about Jesus. In many ways Paul's life was like a movie. He was beaten up and thrown into jail, and even chased out of a bunch of towns—just for telling others the good news about Jesus. Finally, in Jerusalem, Paul was arrested by Roman soldiers after an angry mob tried to kill him. The soldiers were actually afraid that the crowd would KILL Paul, so they put him in jail to keep him safe. I can't even imagine how scary that must have been for Paul. But Jesus Himself appeared to Paul in prison, and He told Paul to be brave. He knew that Paul had boldly told people about Him, and He still had more plans for Paul to keep going. He knew that in order to do that, Paul would need great courage.

Since people were plotting to kill Paul in Jerusalem, Paul was taken to the governor in Caesarea. When Paul was with the governor, he requested to travel to Rome to stand trial before Caesar. The governor granted Paul's request. From there, they sailed around Cyprus and transferred to a ship from Egypt which was carrying grain to Italy. The ship fought against the wind and waves for many days. Eventually, they arrived in a town on the Island of Crete called Fair Havens. Paul could see that the longer they sailed on the ocean, the more dangerous it became. He warned everybody of what was coming. Open the Bible to Acts 27:10

(NirV) and read, “Men . . . I can see that our trip is going to be dangerous. The ship and everything in it will be lost. Our own lives will be in danger also.”

The captain and ship’s owner wanted to reach a better harbor to keep the ship safe for the winter. They wanted to reach Phoenix. A gentle wind started to blow, and the ship’s crew thought it was a good time to sail. They didn’t listen to Paul’s warning. Soon that gentle wind grew until it had the force of a hurricane! The ship was caught up in the terrible storm. The men did whatever they could to save the ship. They brought the lifeboat on board, and tied ropes underneath the ship to hold it together. They even threw cargo overboard. In the midst of the chaos, God sent an angel to Paul to explain that God will save the lives of everyone on board.

The next morning, Paul encouraged the crew and passengers—all 276 people on board—by telling them what the angel had said. He told them to be brave, because they needed to crash the ship onto the beach of an island in order to survive. As you might imagine, the other people on board didn’t love this idea. On the fourteenth night of the storm, they discovered that they were close to land. The crew members were afraid of crashing, so they lowered the lifeboat. They planned to escape and leave Paul and the other passengers behind. But Paul told Julius and the soldiers that the crew had to stay with the ship. It was the only way they could be saved. The soldiers decided to trust Paul, so they cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away, empty. Just before dawn, Paul took some bread and thanked God, then they ate. The crew listened to Paul and ran the ship onto the beach. After they crashed on the beach, the soldiers planned to kill Paul and the other prisoners to keep them from swimming to freedom . . . but Julius stopped them. He wanted to save Paul’s life. Sure enough, everyone reached land safely, just as Paul had said they would. They landed on an island called Malta. The people there built a fire to welcome their visitors. Then, Paul was bitten by a venomous snake . . . but he just shook the snake off into the fire. When the people saw that Paul hadn’t been hurt by the snake, they figured he must be a god. Publius, their chief official, welcomed Paul and the others into his home. Publius’ father was sick. So, Paul prayed and asked God to heal him . . . and God did! All of the sick people on the island ran to see Paul, and they were healed, too! The people of Malta were so happy that they gave Paul supplies for his journey. Eventually, he made the journey to Rome where the believers came out to meet him. Whew! What a story. Finally, Paul had made it to Rome. Wow.

So, Paul was still under guard, but he was in a house not a jail. He’d spent TWO YEARS telling people the good news of Jesus. There were so many times along the way when Paul could have given up. He faced storms, angry mobs, people trying to kill him, being arrested, and even being bitten by a snake! But through all of his problems, Paul never gave up. He knew this: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems. Paul didn’t see his problems as something that would stop him. He knew that Jesus was always with him—through the good and bad times along the way. That’s something we can remember, too, whenever we have problems that seem overwhelming.

## Let’s talk about it!

- What was your favorite part of the story today?

- What's a problem you've had? Why would it be considered a problem?
- If someone told you that your problem was going to be solved, how would you feel? Doubtful? Nervous? Excited?
- How do you think the men on the ship felt when Paul said their problem was going to be solved? How do you think they knew they could trust him?
- Think of a problem in your life. Share it and how you're feeling about it. What can we do about that problem and who can we trust?

## Pray

“Dear God, thank You so much for this amazing story from Paul’s life. Thank You for seeing him through so many problems and keeping him safe along the way. Thank You for the reminder that no matter how scary or hard life can be, You will be with us through it all. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

## Game time!

### FEAR FACTOR

This game would have been way less scary and far less icky if we place all of the items in the center of the group for everyone to see! In fact, it would have changed the whole game! What if we could do the same thing with our problems? What if we could see them differently and make them less scary?

WHAT YOU NEED: Variety of items of different textures, opaque bags

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place all items in one opaque bag.
- Have someone close their eyes as you move one of the items from the full bag to the empty bag.
- You are going to guess the object without knowing what it is!
- Everyone who is playing (besides the person who put the object in the bag) guess
- Then, reveal what the item is.

### I GOT PROBLEMS

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, markers, masking tape

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Tape the butcher paper to a wall or lay the butcher paper on the floor
- Think of one problem you've faced in the past whether big, small, significant, or trivial. Anything goes, as long as it's a problem! It can be your problem or someone else's problem!
- Run to the wall and draw or write your problem on the page.

Some problems are pretty big. Some of them might seem big, and some are just little things that get in our way. Either way, these problems are no match for Jesus. There isn't anything He can't handle. When we remember that Jesus is with us, it can change the way we face our problems! You are never alone, even when these things happen. You don't have to face any of these problems alone.