

Week 9 : Shipwrecked

Theme: We can trust in God even in the most difficult situations.

On arrival : Colour in “Malta” passport stamp and add to passport.

Games:

Shuffle boat race: Divide the children into teams. Children sit on the floor with their legs stretched out in “V” shape. The next child sits in the “V” and so on until the children of each team are seated one behind the other. The front person mimes using oars with his arms, the rest of the “boat” place their arms on the shoulders of the child in front. On “Go”, each team/boat shuffles on its bottom towards the finish line. To make it more fun you could place a “buoy” at the end of the course that the teams have to go round in order to make it back to the start line. You may prefer to use some kind of matting for the children to sit on. The caretakers will be glad of the polishing !!

Musical Islands: Place a number of sheets of newspaper “islands” around the room. According to the number of children you have, decide how many inhabitants each island may have. When the music stops, children head for an island. Remove an island each time. If there is no space on an island , the child is out!

The hungry sea: Children stand in a circle around one player who is the “sea”. A leader calls out instructions, “The sea is” and the children in the circle have to perform an action. Suitable instructions may include : choppy – mime karate chops; calm – freeze; stormy – jump up and down; full of surfers – mime surfing, filled with sharks – hand on forehead like a fin etc. When the leader calls “The sea is hungry” the children race to the edge of the room without being tagged by the “sea”. If tagged, that child becomes the “sea”.

Memory verse : *You are God; you always keep your promises, 2 Samuel 7 v 28.* In advance, collect a number of plastic bottles one per team with a coloured label to identify it as their bottle. On “Go” the children set off to find their bottle which has been hidden. Each bottle will contain a cryptogram letter that will need to be decoded to uncover the memory verse.

Introduction : Talk briefly about times when the situation has seemed pretty awful. How easy has it been to trust God ? Let the children share some of the occasions they have experienced.

Story: *Acts 27* .This would be a wonderful story to act out. There is an outline in the resources.

Application: Paul is an example of someone who puts their trust so completely in God that the most dreadful situations don’t seem so bad. How would you have felt if you were on that boat being tossed around in the most dreadful of storms and Paul calmly told you that he trusted in God that everything would be alright ? Would you have been able to trust God at that moment ? Paul did and God’s promise to keep them all from harm came true.

Prayer : Invite children to write prayers and put them in one of the bottles used earlier as a message in a bottle to God.

Song: *I will walk where you tell me to walk (Captain of my soul), Rocky Kids 1 CD*
Downloadable from www.davecooke.com

Resources : There is a fun sheet, memory verse and story in the resources.

This would be a great story to act out with sound effects too !

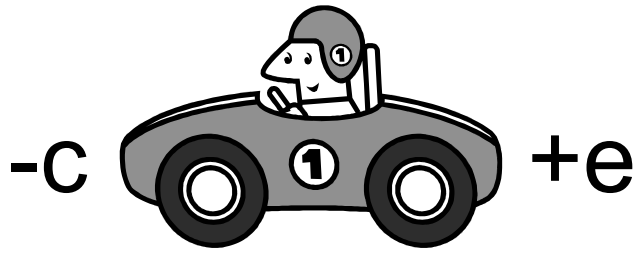
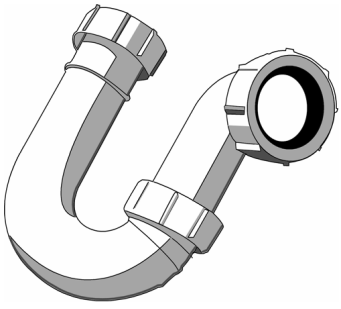
Paul and several of the other prisoners sailed for Rome. The centurion guarding them was called Julius. He treated Paul well. The journey was slow and the winds began to pick up. The boat began to struggle against the gusts and the waves. When they docked, Paul suggested that they spend the winter there because Paul knew how bad the storms could be in the winter but the captain and the ship owner laughed at Paul and the boat set off again. They hadn't gone very far before the waves began whipping against the boat. The boat was tossed and turned and driven far off course.

As the howling storm went on into the night the terrified crew were blown one way, then the other. They tossed furniture and cargo overboard in an effort to keep afloat. Day after day the storm raged around them. The sailors couldn't tell where the blackness of the sky ended and the blackness of the sea began. It felt like the end of the world. Everyone huddled together in despair certain that they would all be drowned.

"Take heart," Paul said, "Last night an angel of God told me that the ship will sink but none of us will drown."

When the boat hit a sandbank, the stern was crushed and the boat began to sink. The soldiers feared that the prisoners would try to swim ashore and escape so they wanted to kill them but the centurion Julius stopped them. Instead he ordered that everyone who could swim should jump overboard and try to swim to safety and everyone else cling onto planks and floating wreckage.

Incredibly, just as God had promised, everyone survived.



(spelt backwards);



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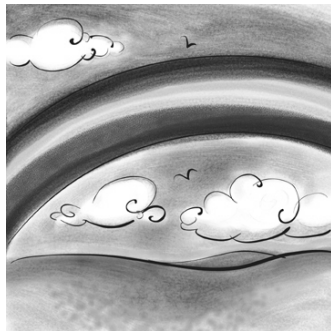


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2 Samuel 7 v 28

The words you need are : God, your, are, promises, keep, all, You, You, always. The clues are a bit tricky. Ask a leader to help.