

1st – 5th Grade Small Group Lesson

Session Title: The Shipwreck

Bible Passage: Acts 27:13-44; 28:11-16

Main Point: God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

Key Passage: Philippians 1:20-21

Big Picture Question: When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.

Christ Connection: *Paul trusted God to keep His promise to rescue them from the storm. He encouraged the sailors to trust and obey God too. God calls us to trust in His Son, Jesus, who died to rescue us from sin and death, and to tell others this good news.*



Shipwreck!

Instruct the group to line up and explain that you are the captain, and they are the crew. You will give commands and the crew will perform specific actions or sounds. Before playing, teach the group the commands. Explain that you are all sailing on a dangerous sea, and everyone needs to work together and obey the captain's commands to survive.

- Roll call: Players must salute, and say, "Aye-aye, Captain!" The crew may not lower their salute until you say, "At ease."
- Crow's nest: Players act as if they're climbing a ladder to the crow's nest at the top of the main mast.
- Swab the deck: Players act like they're mopping.
- Row to shore: Players find a partner, simulate rowing, and sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

To play, call out a command. Any crew member who does not follow the command correctly or who is the last to obey should sit out. The goal is to be the last crew member standing.

A Boat in the Storm

Invite everyone to sit in two or three rows on the floor. Stand in front of the group, and call out storm conditions and encourage the group to move with you as you pretend to be on a boat.

Suggested conditions and reactions:

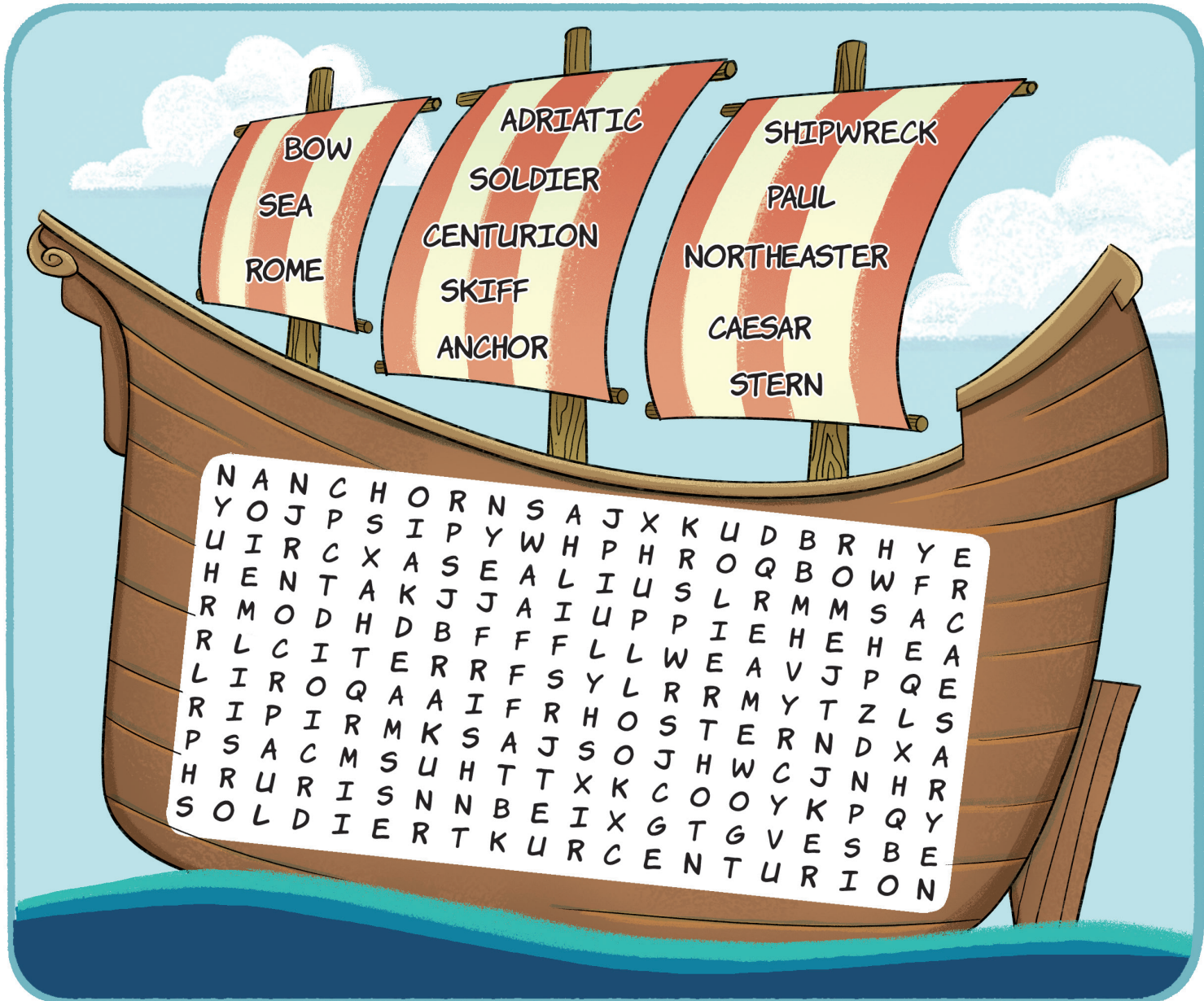
- Port side wave: Everyone lean to their right as though a large wave hit the left or "port" side.
- Starboard wave: Everyone lean to their left as though a large wave hit the right or "starboard" side.
- Hoist the sail: Everyone stand up.
- Giant wave: Everyone lean back as if traveling up a wave before then leaning forward as though rushing down a wave.
- Whirlpool: Everyone stand up and spin in a circle and sit back down.

That was a pretty fun game, but being in a storm in a real boat on the ocean would not be fun at all. I would be so scared! Paul and the sailors were probably afraid too, but God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar. We all face difficult and scary times in our lives. Even in the midst of them, we can trust that God is good and that He is working things together for His glory and our good. Our hope is not on things in this life, but in Jesus. When Jesus returns and fixes everything broken in the world, we will live forever with Him.

Shipwreck Word Search

DOWNLOAD THE TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Find the words from the word bank hidden in the letters on the ship.



N A N C H O R N S A J X K U D B R H Y E
 Y O J P S I P Y W H P H R O Q B M S A C
 U I R C X A K J E A L I U P S L E H M M S A F R
 H E N T A K J J E A L I U P S L E H M M S A F R
 R M O D H A D B F F S Y L L W R R M E H P Q E
 L I R O T A K I F F S Y L L W R R M E H P Q E
 R I P I R M S U H T T X K O S J H W C J N H R Y
 P S A C I S N T K U R C E N T U R I O N
 S O L D I E R T K U R C E N T U R I O N

KEY PASSAGE:

Philippians 1:20-21

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- When should we tell others about Jesus? We should always tell others about Jesus, even when it is difficult.

BIBLE STORY:

THE SHIPWRECK

- Paul was sailing to Rome to see Caesar when a storm began to toss the ship.
- The sailors were afraid the ship would sink and prisoners would escape
- God protected Paul in the shipwreck so he could stand before Caesar.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who do you think was more afraid in the storm, Paul or the sailors? Why?
- How did God use the shipwreck for good?
- What are some hard things in your life that God can use?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Find instructions online to make paper boats. Take your kids to a lake or pond to sail them.