

LESSON PLAN

STORM AT SEA Acts 27-28

Lesson Memory Verse: Jeremiah 22:29 - "O earth, earth, earth hear the word of the Lord."

Lesson Aim: Teach the children that God talks to us from the Bible just as clearly as if He had sent an angel to speak to us; teach the children to thank God for the Bible and to listen carefully to His words.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many of you talked to someone on the phone this past week? (Have them raise their hands.) Did you know who talked with you? How did you know? (Did you see them? Did they tell you who they were? Did you recognize their voice?) Do you remember what they said? (Let some of them tell what was told to them.)

The phone is one way for someone to talk to us. There are other ways for people to talk to us. Can you think of some of these ways? (Radio, TV, letter, messenger, recordings, magazine, newspaper, book, face-to-face)

HE (for Authority): God talks to people, too. God has talked to people in many different ways. Here are some of the ways that God has talked to people: visions, dreams, His voice, ephod, angels and prophets. How does God talk to us today? (The Holy Spirit inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures to speak to us from stories and doctrines in the Bible. He helps us to see how these words apply to our lives. People without the Bible say that they have heard God speak to their mind just as clear as if they heard His words with their ears, but they are usually, if not always, directed to someone that can teach them what God has said in the Bible.) Our memory verse tells us what we are to do with God's Word. What are we to do with the word of the Lord? (Hear it) There are two ways to hear it: (1) we are to learn what the Lord says, and (2) we are to obey what the Lord says, like when your father or mother say, "Did you hear me?" they mean, "Are you going to obey me?"

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's lesson is exciting. It is a story about Paul on a boat in a storm. And when everyone was afraid, God talked to Paul. Let's find out how God talked to Paul. Then let us find out what Paul did after he heard from God. (1) Did he listen to God? (2) Did he obey God?

I. Paul Received a Promise from God - Acts 23:11

Before Paul went to Jerusalem, God promised Paul that he would be a witness for Him in Rome as he had been in Jerusalem. Rome was the most important Gentile city in the world at that time and Paul had made plans to go to Rome as a missionary, but God was going to send Paul to Rome as a prisoner.

WE: We need to remember God's promises to us. We can read them in the Bible, but if we memorize them, then we will remember much better. Believe them and count on them to grow strong as a believer.

II. Paul Began His Trip to Rome - Acts 27:1-13

After waiting for more years in prison for God to send him to Rome (Acts 24:27), Paul was beginning to see God's promise come to pass. He was starting his long trip to Rome (Acts 27:1).

WE: We must not get discouraged when God makes us wait a long time to keep His promise. He will do what He promised. We must be patient.

III. Paul Experienced a Terrible Storm at Sea - Acts 27:14-44

A. The men on the ship lost all hope of being saved from the storm (27:14-20).

God let things get very bad so they would listen to Him more carefully. Paul was always ready to listen to God, but the centurion, soldiers and sailors needed to listen, too. (Compare 27:9-11; 31-32 and 42-43.)

B. God sent a messenger to encourage Paul and instruct him (27:21-26).

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How did God talk to Paul? (By an angel of God) What did he say? (27:24, 26). Did Paul hear God's message? (Yes, he repeated it to all the men on the ship - 27:24.) Did Paul hear God's message so that he obeyed what God said? (Yes, he told the men to be of good cheer because he believed God - 27:25.)

C. Paul believed God's message that all would be saved from the storm (27:27-36).

1. Paul showed his faith by breaking his fast and eating some food (27:33-35).

All the men were fasting. It appears they were fasting to seek God's favor to save them from the storm. Paul heard God's promise to save them from the storm, so he stopped fasting. It no longer was needed.

WE: Why should we fast? (To humble ourselves before God and seek His help with some problem in our lives) Do you think that God was pleased with Paul when he stopped fasting before he was rescued? (Yes, because he believed His promise to save them from the storm – Heb 11:6)

2. Paul showed his faith by telling the men that not one hair would fall from their head (27:34).

This meant that they would be protected by God. How could Paul make such a promise? (cf. 27:24).

WE: Do we tell God's promises to other people? We should!

3. Paul thanked God for the food and for His promise to save them from the storm (27:35).

WE: We need to thank God for our food and for all of His gifts to us. We show our faith in Him when we thank God for His promises before we receive them. This greatly pleases God.

4. Paul's faith in God encouraged the others (27:36).

WE: We can encourage others by our faith in God. We do so by telling them what God told us. Then we obey God to show others that we really believe Him. Finally, we encourage others to believe Him.

D. Paul's life was saved by the centurion (27:37-44).

When the ship was broken up by the storm the soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners lest some would try to escape, then the soldiers would be killed (27:42) The centurion kept the soldiers from killing the prisoners to save Paul's life (27:43) Paul's faith in God won the centurion's respect and possibly his faith in Christ.

WE: We will win the respect of some and maybe their faith in Christ by our faith in God's promises.

IV. Paul Showed his Faith to the Islanders - Acts 28:1-10

- A. Paul was bitten by a deadly snake, but he did not die (27:1-6).

The people on the island were shocked. At first, they thought he was a murderer, but when he did not die, they thought he must be a god. Paul did not seem worried about the snake. He was going to Rome and his faith in God's promise was not shaken by a snake bite.

WE: We need to believe God's promises so strongly that nothing can make us doubt them.

- B. Paul healed the body of Publius' father along with many others (27:7-10).

Paul's faith in God to heal these people was strong.

WE: We can heal the souls of people by telling them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

V. Paul Arrived in Rome as God had Promised - Acts 28:11-16

God kept His promise to Paul and brought him to Rome to be a witness for Him in this great city.

WE: We must learn to hear what God says, but we must obey what He says to hear Him in the right way. Do you listen to God? Do you obey Him?

BE (for Action): Lead the children to pray and ask God to help them listen to what He has said in the Bible. Then have them pray that they will obey Him like Paul did.