



Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link:
<https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Faith-Adventures-How-To-FAYR.pdf>

Acts 27: 21-44 – Paul is shipwrecked

Theme: Knowing God's plan helps us to make courageous choices.

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Introduction: What would be helpful to know before we begin?

Acts

It is really helpful to understand what happens before and after the Bible passage being studied. The person in this link gives a detailed explanation of Paul's journey, the shipwreck and then what followed. It helps to give context and meaning to the Bible passage and Paul's intention to share the gospel.

Paul Shipwrecked on Malta

https://youtu.be/tSO2Tb7lszA?si=H2yq_w1rhaqFFVv2

It is important to consider the courageous acts which all characters in the story demonstrate..... the soldiers, the sailors, Paul.

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme, for example:

Islands

You will need: newspaper and music

To start with, each player stands on a piece of newspaper representing an island. Move around the room when the music is playing, then when the music stops, get onto a piece of newspaper (with no part of your body hanging out). After each round, as the music plays, remove some of the papers and tear some of the sheets, creating fewer and smaller islands each time. Anyone unable to be on a piece of paper when the music stops is out. Sharing of islands is allowed, as long as no part of anybody's body is touching the floor. An alternative is to split into teams, each team with a double spread of newspaper between them to stand on. Each round, the island is reduced in size by half. Which team can manage to keep everybody on their island longest?

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/> recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV, EasyEnglish

Streetlights Acts 27 – an audio retelling of the Bible story
<https://youtu.be/cX2oGStBccw?si=XzKuFhWmXPqLUiIE>

You may want to use these songs as a time to sit and think about what the Bible passage means to you.

Siskin Green - Will your anchor hold
<https://youtu.be/Z9LouKKeYDI?si=4nJmPNKZQhMtxiqo>
 Take heart, my friends – Fernando Ortega
<https://youtu.be/PLrifqBZfRM?si=SqC6kigoHTniRwYg>

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

You may wish to use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Alternatively:

Guided dramatized retelling of the story

This is a way of retelling the story (after watching it or reading it first), one person leading the group through the activity. Being involved in the drama will support the group in being able to do a hot seat activity to finish with.

You will need:

- Materials and resources for fort building
- Signs or stickers to name each character, Paul, Centurion, Soldier, Julius, soldiers, Prisoners, Crew

What you do

Begin by recapping and setting the context of why Paul was travelling with other prisoners on the boat and watch/ read today's passage.

Explain that we are going to have a go at retelling the story together.

Provide materials that the group can use to build a boat big enough for all the group to get into. You may have fort building equipment or use sheets, chairs and cushions.

Once the boat is complete, all get on board, using this as an opportunity to allocate roles.

Once all are safely in the boat, use the following script to retell and act out the story.

Paul, who has been a prisoner for two years, is now on board a ship taking him and other prisoners to Rome. There were over 250 people on board. This was a long journey over many dangerous seas.

There were times when the seas and the weather were calm.

There were many times when the winds blew hard and the seas were rough, throwing people around the ship. Many felt ill and unwell.

The ship was at risk of breaking apart in the strong winds and seas, so the crew threw ropes under and over the ship to hold it together.

They threw the anchor overboard to try to slow the ship down in the storms.

The storm continued for days. They threw the cargo overboard to try to lighten the ship.

Everyone on board were so frightened they were beginning to lose all hope, they thought they might die in the storms.

On the 14th day at sea, the crew thought they might be near land so they dropped four anchors, with a plan to stay the night and wait for daylight.

The soldiers were so worried that the boat might break apart on the rocks that they let down the lifeboat, ready to try secretly to escape.

Paul spoke to the captain Julius and the soldiers, saying that God has told him that if they stay with the ship they will be safe.

Just before morning, Paul spoke to everyone on board saying, “You have been so worried that you have not eaten properly. God has told me that no one is going to die, but you do need to eat, to get your strength back.” Paul took some bread and said a prayer of thanks, then he ate. They all ate the bread together.

After they had eaten, they threw the spare grain overboard to lighten the ship.

When daylight came, they could see they were near a beach, so they cut the ropes holding the anchors and hoisted the sail to head towards the beach. They planned to run the ship into the land. To crash it.

When the ship hit rocks and solid ground, it began to fall apart.

The soldiers planned to kill all the prisoners to stop them from escaping but Julius stopped them, saving the lives of Paul and the prisoners.

Julius ordered everyone who could swim to jump overboard and swim to land.

He told those who could not swim to cling to bits of the boat and make their way to land too.

Everyone made it safely to shore, just as God had promised Paul.

Once the drama retelling is over, explore the story further with a hot seat activity.

Characters from the story are invited to sit on a central chair and the group are able to ask them questions. Who would the group like to hot seat and what would they like to ask them?

Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.

Watch: Alice through the looking glass clip – Ship chased during storm.

https://youtu.be/qj2m-HhU8ul?si=_mk4vEuvqD3Zq71v

Questions for discussion:

- How do you react when you face difficult situations that may seem impossible?
- What similarities and differences stand out to you between the Bible passage and this video clip?
- Alice says “The only way to achieve the impossible is to believe it is possible.” What are your thoughts on this statement?

Talking together: Going deeper

- Who do you relate to in the Bible story and why?
- Why was it God's plan to let this happen to the people of the ship?
- I wonder if you've ever been in a situation where something difficult is coming? Where do you find your courage?

Conversation starters

- Some of the people in the Bible story had to make some courageous choices. Did you spot any of them? What were they and who was making them?
- What helped them to make the courageous choices that they took?

Express

How do we respond to what we've discussed and express our faith personally?

Praying together

Prayer Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below.

Alternatively light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

Dear God,

When life feels really hard, help us to know that the impossible is possible with you, that your anchor keeps us from drifting too far from you and your protection over us.

Help us to put our trust in you, to call out to you and to hold onto that anchor.

Shine the light in our hearts so we can see the hope of a calmer day.

Amen

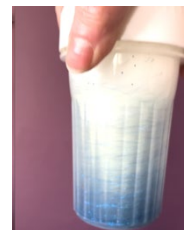
Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. See Faith Adventures: Children Together for a craft and a STEM activity which may also be appropriate. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

Stem - Tornado in a Bottle

You will need:

- Clear bottle or other tall, shatterproof container with a lid
- Water
- Dish soap
- Glitter or food colouring (optional, but may make it easier to see the tornado)



What you do:

Fill your container about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with clean water.

Add a squirt of dish soap, as well as your glitter or food colouring, if desired.

Seal the container tightly.

Move the bottle rapidly in a circular motion. After a few seconds, you should see the water begin swirling. Stop, and watch your tornado!

Using a bigger bottle may also result in larger tornados, which will be easier to observe.

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **How easy is it to trust God in scary situations?**
- Research something suggested by JPIT [Resources \(jpit.uk\)](http://jpit.uk) or Commitment For Life cforl.co.uk
- The RNLI and Seafarers Mission are just two charities who help those who travel the seas. Is there something you could do to become involved with either? Follow the links to find out more: <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/> <https://rnli.org/>

Thank you for exploring the **Paul's shipwreck** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing children.youth@urc.org.uk or by sharing it on https://bit.ly/FACT_FB

