



Important Directions for Parents:

Below are the lesson notes and activities used by the teachers during the “Small Group” session of Kids Club. In your home, during this Covid-19 down time, you could adapt these activities to provide your children with additional, interactive things to do to reinforce the “Large Group” lesson materials provided on the webpage. The formatting and page breaks for these pages did not translate so well from their original electronic file, but you should be able to see how it works.

If you’d have questions, feel free to reach out. May the Lord guide your teaching. *Dr. Nelson*

LESSON: PAUL ENCOURAGES OTHERS DURING A SHIPWRECK

Leader Guide for Grades 3-6

 Acts 27

04/26/2020

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 27
- In This Passage: Paul is being transported as a prisoner on a ship when a violent storm threatens to sink the ship. But God encourages Paul, letting him know that no one on the ship will die when the ship wrecks. Paul passes on that encouragement, and everyone gets safely to shore.
- Bible Point: God is encouraging...
- Application: ...so we encourage others.
- Summary Verse: “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power” (Ephesians 6:10).

Dig Deeper

- You’ll Be Teaching: *God is encouraging.* A lot of kids wrestle with self-doubt and insecurity. (*Am I smart enough? Am I pretty enough? Am I strong enough? Do people like me?*) As you talk about God’s encouragement, find ways to encourage kids. You’ll set an example *and* give them words they need to hear.
- Think About: Think of three encouraging things people have said to you. Thank God for sending those encouraging words through other people.

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to give you the right words so you can encourage kids with just what they need to hear.

Quick Tip

- As a Sunday school teacher, you might feel taken for granted by your kids. Maybe you don't get a lot of encouragement for what you do. So let us encourage you: You're doing God's work. You're making a lasting difference. You're touching kids' lives in ways you'll never know...but God knows. Thank you for all you do! Keep up the good work; you're amazing!

This Lesson at a Glance



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a version of Hot & Cold.



OBJECT LESSON

Kids spin plates on marbles.

Supplies

- disposable round plastic plates with a 1-inch edge (2 per child)
- marbles (15-20 per child)



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids pray for people who need encouragement.

Supplies

- craft sticks
- fine-tipped permanent markers

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Guiding Encouragement

[10 min]

Play a Version of Hot & Cold

Say: **We're learning that God is encouraging. An awesome thing God's encouragement can do is guide us to what God knows is best for us. Let's play a game where some helpful encouragement will guide you!**

- For each round of this game, one person (the Seeker) will step into the hall. Everyone else will hide an object in the room. (The Seeker won't know what the object is.)
- The Seeker will return, and the other kids will guide him or her to find the object by clapping.
- When the Seeker is far away from the object, kids will clap very quietly or not at all.
- As the Seeker gets closer to the object, kids will clap louder and louder and can even cheer when the Seeker is about to find the object.
- Play as many rounds as time allows with a new Seeker for each round.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did encouragement guide you in the game?**

• **Tell about another time encouragement from God or another person helped you know what to do.** Share an example of your own first, such as God guiding and encouraging you about taking a job, what college to go to, or how to make new friends.

Say: **God's encouragement to Paul helped guide him in how to handle the storm. He knew everyone needed food and that no one should get off the ship before it crashed. When you're in a tough situation, listen for God's encouragement! Share it with others, too. God is encouraging, so we're encouraging.**



OBJECT LESSON

Spin!

[10 min]

Supplies

- disposable round plastic plates with a 1-inch edge (2 per child)
- marbles (15-20 per child)

Tips

- We used a solid-colored plate on the bottom and a clear plate on top. It was fun to see the marbles move in a circle under the top plate. But two colored plates will work, too! Just make sure both plates are the same size.
- We found that our table wasn't a completely even surface. We had the best results when doing this experiment on the floor.

Spin Plates Without Marbles

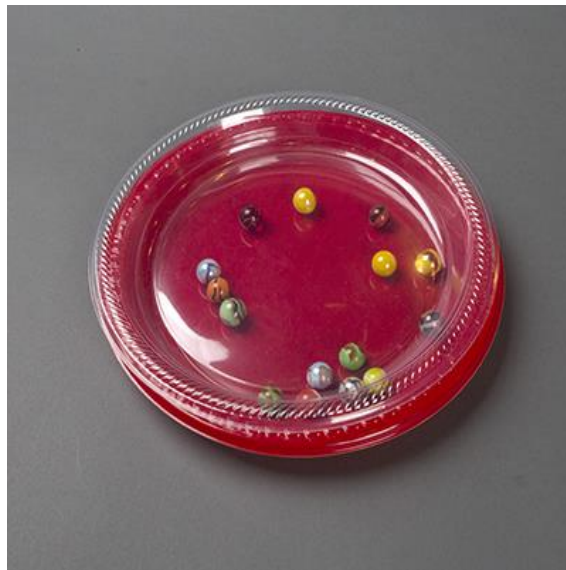
Give each child two plates, and have kids place one plate on top of the other, nested.

Say: **I have a challenge for you! Can you make the top plate spin inside the bottom plate? Only the top plate should rotate** Invite kids to try to spin the top plate. It will be difficult to spin only the top one.

Add Marbles

Say: **I think our top plates need a lift. Let's add some marbles and see what happens.**

- Have kids each put five marbles on the bottom plate and then set the other plate on top again.
- Show kids how to place an index finger on the edge of the top plate and move the plate in a circle until the plate spins on its own.



Say: **Now they're moving! Let's add more marbles and see how long our top plates can spin.**

- Have kids add more marbles and try spinning their plates again. Invite kids to experiment with more or fewer marbles and see how long they can make the top plates spin on their own.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the number of marbles impact your plate's spin?**

Say: **Like encouraging words lift our spirits, the marbles lifted the plates and helped them keep going. The more marbles, the better the spin. And the more encouragement we give, the more people are motivated to keep going, even when it's hard. In our Bible story, Paul encouraged the people on the ship more than once. His words kept them from stopping or giving up.**

Ask: • **Tell about a time someone encouraged you and kept you going. How did those words help you keep going?** Share an example from your own life to begin the conversation.

• **How can you be a "marble" and help someone keep going this week?**

Say: **God is encouraging. He encourages us through other people, and we can be those encouragers and keep our friends going!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

Shipwrecked

Supplies

- craft sticks
- fine-tipped permanent markers

Make Boat Pieces

Say: **In our Bible story, Paul's ship crashed! Everyone had to swim to shore or hold on to a piece of wood from the broken boat to float to shore. Let's imagine we have pieces of the shipwreck as we pray for other people.**

- Set out craft sticks.
- Have kids think of people they know who need encouragement and write each person's name on a different craft stick.

Wrap Up

Say: **Let's get these people safely to shore by praying for them!** Have kids stand on one side of the room and walk slowly across the room, carrying the sticks as they silently pray for the people whose names they wrote on their sticks.

When kids get to the other side, pray: **God, thank you for being so encouraging! Help us pass on your encouragement to those who need it, just like Paul did. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week. Encourage kids to take their sticks home as a reminder to pray for those people all week long.

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