

Lesson 4: Finding Jesus Even in Times of Trouble

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Understand that Jesus can help us even in times of trouble
- 2) Read and understand Acts 27 Paul and the storm
- 3) Play games

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

Supplies:

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible for you and Bibles for students
- Attendance Sheet and Stickers
- Games supplies** (see below for supplies as different games may be chosen for your group)

Water Carrier Game

Tape	2 long strips
Empty plastic bowls	2
Marbles	10 (only needed if playing indoors)
Water	enough to just cover bottom of 2 bowls

Boat Race Game

Boats	2 for each tub (8 all together)
Flat bottom tub	4 so different games can be played at same time
Water and Pail	to fill tubs as needed

Fishing Rod Game

String 3-4 meters	2
Bean bag or sock with sand tied	2
Chalk or Tape	to make circle

Find Your Way to Jesus Game

Chairs	4
Blindfold	4

School of Fish Game

Cardstock paper fish (see template) printed on colored paper (3 fish per page) 1 fish per student plus a few extras in case they get destroyed	blue, green, and yellow (three teams)
String	60 pieces 1-1 ½ meters long
Hole punch	To allow string through fish

Optional Activities

- Snack – Fish Shaped Cheese – find in cheese section at store where kid’s cheeses are sold, or get a cookie cutter in a fish shape and cut out from a block of cheese. Another idea is to cut square slices of cheese into triangles and let the kids put them back to back to make a fish shape of their own.
- Water
- Cups and napkins



Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and take attendance. Say: **“Last week we learned about finding Jesus – can anyone raise their hand and tell me where you found Jesus last week?”** (Kids respond with either: Found Jesus in Bible or Found Jesus when we hear and believe, and/or river with Lydia)

Have you ever got in trouble for something you didn't do? How did you feel? I bet you felt pretty upset, angry and helpless. No one likes that feeling. But when we do get in trouble – there is something we can do – not only to no longer feel upset and angry but, also, to get help and comfort.

Today and next week, we will learn about Paul – an apostle and believer of Jesus – he had trouble when the ship he was on was hit by a storm – he remembered to listen and obey Jesus – even during this troubled time – and you know what? He was helped by Jesus and saved. Just like Paul we can listen and obey too and when we aren't sure what to do we can pray and be thankful knowing Jesus will take care of us!"

We can ask Jesus to help us whether we got in trouble for something we didn't do, whether it is to talk to Jesus and ask for forgiveness for something we did do, or whether we are in danger or scared and need to talk to Him for help and comfort!

Let's all sit quietly while I read the story from the Bible. We can find the story of Paul and the storm in Acts 27. Paul was an apostle of Jesus – he was a man that believed in Jesus and went to many places preaching and teaching that Jesus was the Savior of the world and that people needed to hear, believe and obey Jesus. Paul was arrested for something he didn't do and because of that he was then sent by ship to go to Rome where he would talk about his case to the Caesar or ruler of the time.

Now listen carefully, you have a job to do. As I read every time I say the word **storm or wind** I want you to Blow – let's try: **STORM** (kids should all blow) **WIND** (Kids should blow again)

Every time I say the word **sail** I want you to rock back and forth – let's try **SAIL** (kids should all rock back and forth)

When I say **ship** I want you to pretend to paddle – let's try **SHIP** (all the kids should paddle)

*While reading the story, make sure you pause after reading the highlighted word so kids have chance to realize they need to do an action. You can help if you want to do the action as well while you pause

☺ **This is the story from Acts 27.**

2) Story of Paul and the Storm

10 minutes

ACTS 27

¹When it was decided that we would **sail** for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. ²We boarded a **ship** from Adramyttium about to **sail** for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us.

³The next day we landed at Sidon; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs. ⁴From there we put out to sea again and passed to the lee of Cyprus because the **winds** were against us. ⁵When we had **sailed** across the open sea off the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we landed at Myra in Lycia. ⁶There the centurion found an Alexandrian **ship sailing** for Italy and put us on board. ⁷We made slow headway for many days and had difficulty arriving off Cnidus. When the **wind** did not allow us to hold our course, we **sailed** to the lee of Crete, opposite Salmone. ⁸We moved along the coast with difficulty and came to a place called Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea.

⁹Much time had been lost, and **sailing** had already become dangerous because by now it was after the Fast.^[a] So Paul warned them, ¹⁰"Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to **ship** and cargo, and to our own lives also." ¹¹But the centurion, instead of listening to what Paul said, followed the advice of the pilot and of the owner of the **ship**. ¹²Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided that we should **sail** on, hoping to reach Phoenix and winter there. This was a harbor in Crete, facing both southwest and northwest.

The Storm

¹³When a gentle south wind began to blow, they thought they had obtained what they wanted; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. ¹⁴Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the "northeaster," swept down from the island. ¹⁵The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure. ¹⁷When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. ¹⁸We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²²But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. ²³Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' ²⁵So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

The Shipwreck

²⁷On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. ²⁸They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. ²⁹Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. ³⁰In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. ³¹Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." ³²So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it fall away.

³³Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. ³⁴Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." ³⁵After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. ³⁶They were all encouraged and ate some food themselves. ³⁷Altogether there were 276 of us on board. ³⁸When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

³⁹When daylight came, they did not recognize the land, but they saw a bay with a sandy beach, where they decided to run the ship aground if they could. ⁴⁰Cutting loose the anchors, they left them in the sea and at the same time untied the ropes that held the rudders. Then they hoisted the foresail to the wind and made for the beach. ⁴¹But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf.

⁴²The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. ⁴³But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. ⁴⁴The rest were to get there on planks or on pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land in safety.

Good job everyone, we read the story of Paul in the shipwreck – and because he listened to Jesus – he was safe – even in times of trouble! So we can remember that we can be alright too - when we pray and listen to the Words of Jesus found in the Bible!

3) Games - choose a few from the following list

***Times of games may vary – (If possible these should be outdoors games)**

WATER CARRIERS ~ Skill Team Game

5-10 minutes

***Do not play this game if any girl is wearing a dress**

***Based on “Finding Jesus at the Lake” The fish and coin – Matthew 17:24-27** students learn the importance of finding Jesus through obeying

Needed:

Tape	2 long strips
Empty plastic bowls	2
Marbles	10 (only needed if playing indoors)
Water	enough to just cover bottom of 2 bowls

Tape 2 parallel lines at the distance of 10 feet from each other.

Tell the children, **“This game is to help us learn about how we can find Jesus at the Lake. Jesus is the Son of God and one day he asked one of his followers to get a coin to pay for the taxes. But, the coin he was to get was in the mouth of a fish! Peter believed Jesus and did just what Jesus said and because of it, he got the coin needed to pay the taxes. So we are going to play a game that will help us remember that if we obey Jesus like His follower did, we will be blessed and know that the decisions we make are the right ones, because Jesus knows what is best for us, because He is the Son of God! We can read this story in Matthew 17:24-27 in the Bible, it says,**

After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?"

"Yes, he does," he replied.

When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?"

"From others," Peter answered.

"Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

Remember, Peter obeyed Jesus and so should we!

Have children break into two teams. First players in each team go in a crab crawl position (with both feet on ground and then lean backwards and place both hands on ground so stomach faces up) before one of the lines.

You put a plastic bowl of water (only 1 teaspoon of water) on the stomach of each of the first players - outdoors only – **if played indoors put three marbles in the bucket instead of water.**

The task of the players is to cross the opposite line and return back, then you will put the bucket on the stomach of the next person in the team's line.

First team done wins – if water is spilled – fill it again and have the person start from the beginning of the line. ***Play somewhere soft and clean if possible.**

BOAT RACE ~ Slow paced game**10 - 15 minutes**

*Based on finding Jesus even in times of trouble - Paul and the Shipwreck - Acts 27

Needed:

Boats	2 for each tub (8 all together)
Flat bottom tub	4 so different games can be played at same time
Water and Pail	to fill tub as needed

Gently fill tubs with just enough water to fill bottom of tub, making sure tubs are spread out so different kids can gather around and have room.

Tell the children, **“In the Bible there is a story of a man named Paul – he trusted in Jesus the Son of God even when times were tough and even when he was scared. Paul was in a storm on a ship and he knew his ship was going to be destroyed. But he trusted that Jesus would take care of him and he did! Just like Paul we can sail our boats in the water. One by one we are going to take turns putting our boats in, when your boat is in you can blow on it to see if you can reach the other side safely without tipping. Even though Paul was in the storm, God saved him and all the men that were in the boat because Paul listened and obeyed. He followed Jesus by obeying His words. Even though the ship Paul was in crashed, God told him all the men would be saved, and God was right – no one died, they all lived! So even though our boats may be blown in the wind, that is ok because we can remember to pray to Jesus for help when we are having tough or scary times and He will help us if we obey Him.”**

Get the children into 4 groups and then into pairs. Each pair will take a boat and race it in the water starting at one end of the tub and blowing their boats with their mouths to reach the other end.

The goal is for both children to get their boats to the end – they can help each other as needed. Then it is the next pairs turn. Let each child have a turn.

FISHING-ROD ~ Fast paced game**10-15 minutes****Needed:**

String 3-4 metres	2
Bean bag or sock with sand tied	2
Chalk or Tape	to make circle

The players get into a circle. The leader is in the center of the circle with "the fishing-rod" in his/her hands.

"The fishing-rod" is a 3-4m long string with the sac full of sand attached to the end of it.

Standing in the center of the circle the leader spins round "the fishing-rod" on the ground. While gliding the floor the sac may touch the players' feet.

So their task is to jump up as the sac goes by and the goal is to not let themselves get touched by the fishing rod. The player touched by the sac is out of the game. The last one left can then be the leader.

FIND YOUR WAY TO JESUS ~ Slow paced game**10 minutes****Needed:**

Chairs	4
Blindfold	4

We can find Jesus in the Bible; it is the book that God gave us that tells us what we should do and how we should live to make God and us happy. Jesus is in the Bible, He is the Son of God and the Bible tells us we should follow Him and learn about him by reading the Bible. If we take the time to read and study the Bible we will know what we need to do for a happy life and

what pleases God. As we play this game think of how we can have a goal of studying the Bible and learning more – just like we want to find the chair – we should want to find Jesus by studying the Bible as often as we can.”

Have 4 teams of children. Put a chair or a stool on the ground one for each team.

The player who wants to participate in this game sits down on a chair. Then he/she is blindfolded. After that he/she stands up, makes 5 steps forward, turns to the right, makes 5 more steps forward and again turns to the right. On having walked the perimeter of the playground in this way, the player stops and sits down on the chair again. Any player who manages to do it wins. This is not a timed game so taking their time is fine, it is whoever can sit back down on the chair after following the instructions. Remind them to go slow and when trying to sit down do it carefully incase the chair isn't where they thought it should be!

This is to help them remember the importance of following Jesus – **with Jesus we can find our way every time! But on our own we will find it extremely difficult or impossible and wish we had asked Jesus for help to begin with.**

SCHOOL OF FISH ~ Running outdoor game

15-20 minutes

*Based on Finding Jesus through hearing and believing, the story of Lydia.

Needed:

Cardstock paper fish (see template) printed on colored paper (3 fish per page) 1 fish per student plus a few extras in case they get destroyed blue, green, and yellow (three teams)

String 60 pieces 1-1 ½ metres long

Hole punch To allow string through fish

- Before class photocopy and cut out different colored fish. Hole punch each one somewhere near the head, taking the string tie one end to the fish.
- Say: **This game helps us learn about finding Jesus at the river, that is where a lady named Lydia learned about Jesus, and we can learn about Jesus too! Lydia was a lady who was praying to God while sitting near the river, because that is where people in her area back then met. While she was there Paul, a man who taught about Jesus, came and began teaching about God's Son Jesus and how we need to follow Jesus and believe in Him. Lydia heard what Paul was saying and believed that Jesus is the Son of God. She found Jesus by hearing and believing. She decided she would continue to learn and follow Jesus, as it says in the Bible in the book of**

Acts 16:12 -15:

'From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.'

- **Game time:** Divide up into 2-4 equal teams. Each player gets a paper fish with a 1-1.2m long string attached to the mouth of the fish. The players fasten the end of the string to the back of their clothes (tucking it in the back of pants or the inside of socks, so that the tail of the fish touches the floor. Each team has fish of different colors.

- At the signal the players run for each other, trying to step on the tail of the fish of their rivals. The players mustn't touch the strings and the fish with the hands. The player who "loses" the fish is out of the game.
- The team which manages to keep the greatest number of fish wins. You can play this more than once.

When finished playing have children help you clean up and head inside for prayer and snack time

4) *Optional – Snack Fish Shaped Cheese

5 minutes

"You've all done a great job this morning learning about finding Jesus and playing fun games. To help us remember, we are going to have a snack." Hand out a couple of fish shaped cheese. You can also provide water and a napkin to clean fingers. **Discuss questions about Paul and the Storm while snacking. Talk about the importance of having Jesus in our lives, especially in times of trouble.** After snack have kids clean up. Then move on.

5) Close in prayer

"Just like Paul, we need to trust and obey Jesus. Now, God doesn't speak to us directly today – but He talks to us through the Bible. So to know what God wants we have to read the Bible and obey what it says."

"Does anyone have any questions?" (Answer questions if on track or appropriate, if not on track – tell them to ask you later and you will see if you can answer.)

"Before we end class let's all bow our heads and pray. Jesus likes it when we pray, this is when we can talk to Jesus and God and tell them how happy we are to know them, and to ask for help when we need it, just like you will continue to learn next week from the story of Paul."

(Lead prayer – ask students if they have any troubles in their lives that they need Jesus to help with and then pray for those as well.)

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!