

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

### DINNERTIME DISCUSSION:

Looking back at your past week, what specific truth, verse, or promise acted as your “anchor”? What might your week have looked like without it?

### PRACTICING PRAYER:

Do you know someone who is facing a storm? Pray for them! Pray that the Lord would be present with them through the storm and reveal himself.

### DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Reflect on the times when God has worked through the storms of your life. Thank him for his sovereignty and the ways he has used these storms to teach you more about who He is and to develop faith and maturity in you.

### GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

What could it look like for you to step into a storm or shipwreck with someone who is struggling with the hope of the gospel? How can you be a faithful presence to point to Jesus....with or without words?

### VERSE MEDITATION

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

### SONGS

“It is Well with My Soul”

“A Mighty Fortress is our God”



## Leader Resource Guide

Date: March 1, 2026

# The Shipwreck



## OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

If you had your own late night talk show, who would be your first guest?

When you're stressed or overwhelmed, what's your go-to “steadying habit”?

## NOTES

**YOU MUST PRAY**

**YOU MUST STAY RESOLVED**

**YOU MUST BE NOURISHED**

**YOU MUST LEAVE THE BAGGAGE BEHIND**

**THE GATHERING OF BELIEVERS**

**THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL**

**THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**THE STRENGTHENING OF THE CHURCH**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. **Personal Scripture Recap:** How have you been meeting with God in His Word lately? What have you been learning or remembering? What do you want to remember from your time in Scripture this past week?

2. How do the different people or groups in this narrative respond to the storm? Where do you see the contrast between the sailors' instincts (v.30), the soldiers' instincts (v.42), and Paul's responses? Paul's trust in God's power, sovereignty, and will stands in contrast to the sailors' fear-driven actions and the soldiers' instinct to kill the prisoners. What does Paul actually know from God at this point, and how does that shape the way he leads?

*Contrasts: sailors (self-preservation), soldiers (control through force), passengers (fear), Paul (calm trust).*

*Dynamics between those on the ship → panic, blame, self-interest, and Paul's steady presence.*

*Paul knows the promise ("you must stand before Caesar" - 27:24) but not the path. He knows the outcome (all will survive - 27:22-24) but not the details (shipwreck, swimming, unexpected island). This helps us see that faith is not certainty about circumstances, but confidence in God's character, provision and calling to obedience.*

3. The sailors dropped four anchors and "longed for daylight." What are the "anchors" you rely on in your own storms? It may be worth considering honestly what anchors we rely on that aren't of God, and what true anchors we should trust in during storms.

*Encourage honest naming of true anchors (Promises of God, prayer, community; last week's "traveling companions", scripture, worship), and false anchors (control, distraction, self-reliance, avoidance). Connect this to the hope of Jesus - His Righteousness, His intercession, His presence, and how turning attention to Him reframes the storm.*

4. God promised everyone would survive, yet the group still had to throw out the wheat, steer for the beach, and eventually swim for their lives (v. 38-44). If God had already guaranteed their safety, why was it still necessary for them to work so hard to get to shore? How does this reflect the balance between God's sovereignty and our responsibility? Do you tend to lean to personal responsibility or trusting God's sovereignty when faced with storms?

4. Continued

*This is the theological center of the passage. Help others see that God's promise does not eliminate meaningful action. Consider personal tendencies: do people default to over-responsibility (fixing everything) or passive "let go and let God"? Trust and obedience are not opposites but partners.*

5. Some storms end; others don't—chronic illness, lifelong caregiving, persecution, mental health struggles, disability, persistent weakness. How does this passage help us think about storms that don't resolve quickly or at all?

*Paul's storm ends in shipwreck—yet even the wreck becomes God's means of rescue. Encourage lament, endurance, and hope without offering simplistic fixes. Scripture doesn't promise the storm will stop, but it does promise God's presence, purpose, and preservation. Note that even the shipwreck becomes a surprising means of grace.*

*"Indeed, nothing will stop God's will or hinder his purposes for his church. In this age, God does not promise his people a life free from suffering and trials. Paul endured much for the cause of the gospel. But he pressed on because of God's promise. God has promised an eternity unlike anything we can imagine. He has promised that we will be with him face to face, that death will be no more, and sin will pass away. There will be no more tears. No more death. No more sadness. No more grief. God calls his people to seize his promises and hold them tight. Our obedience will only be as strong as our faith in the promises of God. Paul said in verse 25, "So take heart for .. have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. Does the church today possess such faith? Do we believe in the promises of God? Do we live as if we believe in his promises?" (Acts for You; R. Albert Mohler, Jr, pg. 187)*

6. If the Book of Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit continuing the work of Jesus through flawed people, in what ways is the 'twenty-ninth chapter' being written through your life and our community today?

*Consider some of the bigger themes throughout the book; the establishment and growth of the church after Jesus' ascension, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit upon believers, bold witness despite opposition, the gospel spreading to Gentiles, Paul's obedience and trust in God's sovereignty. How would these themes continue in the context of our church and lives?*

7. **The Woodlands in the Word** passages are Hebrews 7-11.