

2024 - Family Devo

Dec 22 - a



READ: Acts 27:39-44

Main Idea: The next day the ship gets closer to shore. They tried to safely run ashore but instead hit a reef. When the ship is being destroyed by the crashing waves, the passengers will soon be abandoning the ship and swimming for shore. The soldiers plan to kill the prisoners aboard out of fear that some may escape, but the centurion denies them this plan, because he wants to spare Paul (who was a prisoner). We see God watching over Paul's life as well as the others since all make it to shore, swimming or using pieces of the ship to keep afloat.

DISCUSS

Children: If any of the prisoners escaped the soldiers guarding them would be put to death. The ship is sinking and people are panicking. The soldiers thought they should kill all the prisoners so none could escape. Once again we see God's kindness and protection of His servant Paul. Julius wanted to save Paul and he told them they could not kill any of the prisoners. God had a plan for Paul's life and no one was going to end Paul's life before God's work for Paul was done. Believers can find comfort in knowing that God is in control of their life and their lives will not end on this earth until God's purpose for his/her life is fulfilled.

Teen: Are you ever alone? Even in difficult times God is with you. Has there been a time you were struggling with something, but could still see God's goodness at work? Does God use others to carry out his plans? Is he working with the unsaved as well as the saved? During these times could a nonbeliever's heart be turned to God?

Adult: Think of a time when you only had bad, and maybe worse choices. What were you feeling? Was it a time when your safety was at stake? Maybe you haven't had any of those situations. Have you ever been lost, physically lost where you had no clue where you were? What did you do? For those of you who said "duh, use my phone," what would you do if you left it at home or it had no charge remaining? It could be scary. Now, imagine that someone nearby wanted to kill you to protect their own life. How do you suppose Paul felt when the centurion stopped the soldiers from carrying out their plan?

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Romans 6:23 (ESV)
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



2024 - Family Devo

Dec 22 - b



READ: Acts 28:1-10

Main Idea: The passengers have crashed on an island called Malta. The natives showed them kindness by building a fire for them to warm up. However, Paul becomes bitten by a very poisonous snake. When he doesn't die from this, the natives are amazed. The chief man of the island was very hospitable. His father was ill and after Paul healed him, Paul healed others on the island who had various diseases. As they were about to sail again these people blessed the passengers by sending them with whatever supplies they needed. Surely God was working in all of this with his providential care of Paul and even those with Paul.

DISCUSS

Children: The people living on the island must have heard the noise and cries of the people from the shipwreck. The islanders were walking in the direction of the survivors. A thought that must have crossed Paul and the rest of the survivors' minds was: "Were these people friends or enemies? Knowing what you already know about Paul do you think he was afraid that he was going to be killed on this island? God's word tells us that they showed the survivors unusual kindness. They welcomed everyone to the island of Malta. God helped Paul in these events even though there were many dangers. Will God help us through hard things in our lives too?"

Teen: Does God use ordinary people to accomplish his plans? When we show people the goodness of God, does it have the potential to bring out something better in them?

Adult: Malta is a small island, 17 mi by 9 mi. Do you think this had an impact on how the news of Paul and his healing of the official's father spread? Place yourself into the islander's shoes. How would you have honored Paul if he healed you or a loved one? What do you think the others from the ship thought when they saw a long line of sick waiting for Paul to heal them? They had heard and seen God's care for Paul and now they saw his signs. Do you think they were convinced of what Paul had taught them?

PRAY

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