



Bible Story: Trouble in Mind (Paul Shipwrecked) • Acts 27:1—28:10

Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.

Memory Verse: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)*

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

Read: Acts 27:1—28:10

- **Ask: [Younger Kids]**
 - What were some of the problems Paul had? (*a bad storm, a shipwreck, being bitten by a snake, people who were sick*)
 - What were some good things God brought from those problems? (*people saw God's power, God sent an angel to tell Paul everything would be okay, God healed people, people believed in Jesus*)
- **Ask: [Older Kids]**
 - Paul had a lot of problematic things happen to him! What were Paul's problems?
 - What gave Paul the confidence and peace he needed to persevere through his problems?
 - Does knowing Jesus mean our problems hurt less or go away completely?
 - Make sure kids walk away understanding that it's okay to feel sad, hurt, or mad, etc. Knowing Jesus doesn't mean that life becomes easy. Sometimes it's really HARD! BUT knowing Jesus gives us hope. Knowing Jesus gives us a different perspective, because we know we can trust Him and trust that He's always with us.

What You Say:

"Let's talk about Paul for a minute. He had some wild adventures, didn't he? He was a prisoner, shipwrecked in a dangerous storm, hungry, cold, snake-bitten, hated, and alone. Those were some very big problems. But as we learned today, **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems**, and that was certainly true of Paul. He believed that God would bring something good from even his most difficult situation. He could have become discouraged but instead he chose to have faith that God was with him. He knew that God's plan, even when it was hard, was the best plan for his life. Through it all, God used Paul's life to help bring other people to Jesus."

2. I Got Problems

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to think of one problem they've faced in the past whether big, small, significant, or trivial. Anything goes, as long as it's a problem!

- Ask kids to draw or write their problem on a piece of paper.

What You Say:

“You’ve listed or drawn a LOT of problems! Some of these problems are pretty big. Some of them might seem big, and some are just little things that get in our way. Either way, these problems are no match for Jesus. There isn’t anything He can’t handle. When we remember that Jesus is with us, it can change the way we face our problems! You are never alone, even when *(name some things they’ve listed on the page)* happen. You don’t have to face any of these problems alone. Say it with me, **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.**”

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- When have you seen something good come out of something bad?
- How can knowing Jesus change your perspective on, or how you feel about something in your life?
- **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when knowing Jesus changed your perspective on something difficult in your life. Make sure you point out that it didn’t take away the pain all together, but that it just gave you a different viewpoint, hope, and perspective.)**

4. Lesson Recap and Prayer Journal:

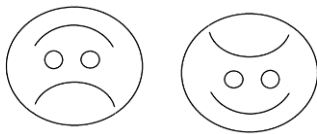
What You Need: Prayer journal, paper, something to write with

What You Do:

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
 - The Bible teaches us that the “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (**James 5:16b**). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a marker.
- Show kids how to draw a reversible smiley face as shown below.



- Lead kids in the following conversation.
- Guide them in prayer to close.

What You Say:

(Ask kids to turn their cards to the sad face.) “Do problems happen to us? Yes, we all face problems. What are some problems we might have? *(Pause as kids give examples.)* Our feelings can get hurt; we or someone we love gets sick; something happens that makes us sad, mad, or confused. Sometimes we feel upset and we’re not sure WHY. We can always talk to God and He will understand.

(Ask kids to turn their cards around so the smile faces them.) “Always remember that God loves you and will help you. He has good plans and will work them out through even your toughest problems. So, don’t forget, **[Bottom Line] knowing Jesus changes the way you see your problems.**”

“Heavenly Father, we love You. Thank You for Jesus! Help us to follow Him this week and remind us that You are with us, always. When things are great and when things aren’t so great, we know we can put our faith and trust in You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”