

Sunday School Lesson

November 13, 2022

Paul Sails for Rome

Acts 27:1-2, 33-44

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Question for Us Today

How firm is your faith in the face of danger?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

November 13, 2022

3

To understand why the Apostle Paul was on this journey and how he handled it.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

November 13, 2022

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Paul

3. Points of Information: Aristarchus

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

November 13, 2022

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Consider This

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was originally known as Saul of Tarsus. Tarsus was then (and still is) a large Mediterranean city in Turkey. Saul of Tarsus is not to be confused with King Saul (of Israel) in the Old Testament. However, both men (with this name) descended from the Hebrew Tribe of Benjamin. 1 Samuel 9:1-2; Romans 11:1.

Paul was a Jew and a Roman citizen by birth. He studied under a well-known professor, Gamaliel. Acts 22:3. Like his teacher and his father, Saul/Paul was a Pharisee. Acts 23:6.

Points of Information – Paul

Before his conversion on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-19), Saul/Paul was a zealous believer in God who felt wholly justified in his brutal persecution of Christian men and women. Acts 9:1-2; Galatians 1:13.

A young Saul stood by, guarding the clothes of those who stoned Stephen (the first Christian martyr) to death and approving this murder. Acts 7:58—8:1a.

Points of Information – Paul

The Apostle Paul was a tentmaker by trade. Acts 18:3. This vocation enabled him to support himself and to have a transportable means of making a living during his extensive travels.

8

In addition to being a prolific writer, Paul was a powerful preacher who traveled great distances (in three missionary journeys, by land and water) to spread the Gospel of Christ Jesus and to establish numerous churches. He called himself “an apostle to the Gentiles.” Romans 11:13.

Points of Information – Aristarchus

Aristarchus was a native of Thessalonica, where Paul (with Silas and Timothy) had planted a church.

Acts 27:2

9

Aristarchus had been a fellow traveler with the Apostle Paul, prior to this voyage. He was in prison with Paul in Rome.

Acts 19:29; 20:4; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 1:24

Paul Sails For Rome

Lesson Context - 1

Following his hearing before Governor Festus and King Agrippa II, the Apostle Paul was being transported – by ship – to Rome.

10

Earlier in Chapter 27, we read that Paul warned the sailors that this voyage would be dangerous and potentially doomed for the ship – but not for their lives.

Paul Sails For Rome

Lesson Context - 2

As the Apostle Paul had warned, the ship encountered significant perils.

Luke provided a high level of detail regarding this voyage.

Paul Sails for Rome

Text – UMI Outline #1

12

Acts 27:1-2

Calm Before the Storm

Acts 27:1 (NLT)

When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment.

Acts 27:2

Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was also with us. We left on a ship whose home port was Adramyttium on the northwest coast of the province of Asia; it was scheduled to make several stops at ports along the coast of the province.

Paul Sails for Rome

Text – UMI Outline #2

15

Acts 27:33-38

Calm in the Storm

Acts 27:33-34

Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. “You have been so worried that you haven’t touched food for two weeks,” he said.

“Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish.”

Acts 27:35-37

Then he took some bread, gave thanks to God before them all, and broke off a piece and ate it.

Then everyone was encouraged and began to eat –

All 276 of us who were on board.

Acts 27:38

After eating, the crew lightened the ship further by throwing the cargo of wheat overboard.

Paul Sails for Rome

Text – UMI Outline #3

19

Acts 27:39-44

Shipwrecked, But Saved

Acts 27:39

When morning dawned, they didn't recognize the coastline, but they saw a bay with a beach and wondered if they could get to shore by running the ship aground.

Acts 27:40

So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. Then they lowered the rudders, raised the foresail, and headed toward the shore.

Acts 27:41

But they hit a shoal and ran the ship aground too soon. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern was repeatedly smashed by the force of the waves and began to break apart.

Acts 27:42-43

The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to make sure they didn't swim ashore and escape.

But the commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so he didn't let them carry out their plan. Then he ordered all who could swim to jump overboard first and make for land.

Acts 27:44

The others held onto planks or debris from the broken ship. So everyone escaped safely to shore.

Consider this:

**Our life of faith will be a
challenging journey.**

**Let us aim to remain CALM when
we face challenges.**

Consider this from UMI Precepts:

Call on God during crises.

**Anticipate God stepping in to save
US.**

Listen to God's instruction.

Make known God's promises.

Consider this:

As we keep the faith, the Lord will be with us every step of the way.

Hallelujah!

Bibliography- 1

Acts – Luke’s Portrait of the Early Christian Church. Bennie Goodwin, Melody Goodwin.

Africa Bible Commentary. Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

Africans Who Shaped Our Faith. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

Bibliography - 2

All the Men of the Bible. Herbert Lockyer.

Bible Handbook, The.

Bible Knowledge Commentary, The – New Testament. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, General Editors.

Bibliography - 3

Holman Bible Handbook.

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

Holy Imagination. Judy Fentress-Williams.

Bibliography - 4

**In Search of Paul. John Dominic Crossan
and Jonathan L. Reed.**

Lands of the Bible Today, The. Dave Branon.

Life Application Bible Commentary – Acts.

Bibliography – 5

Life Application Study Bible.

MacArthur Bible Commentary, The. John MacArthur.

Precepts for Living [UMI]. Vince L. Bantu [Editor].

Bibliography - 6

Spirituality According to Paul. Rodney Reeves.

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament, The. Luke Timothy Johnson.