



Week 4: Paul's Travels

Overview of the Lesson

Video: Be sure to check out the video above for a brief introduction to the study and some brief reflections on the passage.

Scripture: *Primary text:* Acts 13
Supporting texts: Acts 17, Acts 27

Age Specific Breakdown:

- Preschool – Page 2
- Children – Page 3-4
- Avenue 56 – Page 5
- Youth – Page 6
- College – Pages 7-8
- Activity Pages – 9-15

Family Activity/Prayer: Today we invite your family to recite out loud Dr. Barnette's weekly benediction. As you know, the end is always tailored to the message from the sermon. So, we've added a little piece at the end related to Jesus's triumphal entry.

Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father.
 And as you go remember:
 That by the goodness of God you were born into this world,
 And by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long,
 Even until this very hour.
 And by the love of God fully revealed in the face of Jesus Christ,
 You have been redeemed and you are being redeemed
 And so go,
 Preaching with the courage of Paul the missionary. Amen.

Preschool

Preschool: Paul's Travels

Lesson: Please read the scripture from the Bible or a Bible Storybook, Acts 27, Acts 28:1-6 **To use the attachments please scroll down to the very end of all of the Weekly Word.** (See attachment #1 below - lesson/ Paul is shipwrecked), (see attachment #2 below teaching picture), (see attachment #3 below - lesson/ Paul's snake bite), (see attachment #4 below - teaching picture)

Questions:

1. How do you think the people felt during the storm?
2. What did the angel say to Paul?
3. How did Paul show God's love to the people on the ship?
4. What happened to the ship?
5. What happened to the people?
6. What did the people who lived on the island build for Paul, the sailors, and the soldiers?
7. How did God show the islanders that Paul was His missionary? (He miraculously healed Paul's bite)
8. What is a miracle? (something only God and Jesus can do)
9. How many books of the New Testament are written by Paul? (13)

Reinforcing Activities:

Make 3-D coloring pages: add cotton ball clouds to (see attachment #5 below - coloring page), and tiny twigs to the fire on the (see attachment #6 below - coloring page). Cut out a simple, FAT snake out of copy paper, and encourage your child to draw inside the snake pictures of God's miracles (sunshine, babies, flowers, love....)

Family Activities:

Ask each family member to draw or write on a piece of paper something for which God has forgiven them. Gather your family around an umbrella opened upside down resting on the floor (representing the fire in Malta) then take several steps back and have each member crumple their paper and cast it into the "fire". As Paul threw the hurtful snake into the fire, so we too can rid ourselves of our sins as Jesus has washed our sins away by dying on the cross.

Prayer:

Dear God, PLEASE help us to find ways to tell other people about you. THANK YOU for healing Paul's snakebite so that he could keep telling, writing, and showing God's love to many people. WE ARE SORRY that we sometimes make you sad, but thank you that you planned for Jesus to die on the cross to wash away the wrong things we do, so one day we can live forever with you in perfect heaven. In Jesus name, Amen.

Children

Paul's Travels (Acts 13).

Today we begin learning about Paul's missionary journeys. Ask: "What is a missionary?" Explain that missionaries are called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus. Ask your child to listen for the names of the two men who became missionaries in today's Bible story.

Read the scripture together.

Ask for the names of the two men who became missionaries. Point out that Barnabas and Paul were obedient to God. They could have stayed at home and preached to the people around them, but they did what they knew God wanted them to do. Print out the map of Paul's missionary journey at the end of the Weekly Word (see attachment below). Show your child the blue line and talk about how far Paul & Barnabas went and how long it took them to go (about 12 – 18 months). But they still obeyed God and went!

Ask "What other things could have kept them from going/continuing their journey? (persecution, imprisonment, trouble, etc).

But they still obeyed God and went! And God used them to share the good news about Jesus even though they faced trouble everywhere they went.

Bible story review: Do the following activities to review the Bible story.

Review questions:

1. What were Paul and Barnabas chosen to do? *(to travel and tell others about Jesus)*
2. Why couldn't the government leader in Paphos hear about Jesus? *(A magician interfered and made it difficult for Paul to teach.)*
3. What made the official believe? *(He was amazed at God's power when the magician became blind like Paul said he would.)*
4. What did Paul tell the people? *(Answers may include that he told about Jewish history, John the Baptist, and King David. Emphasize that Paul showed the people Scriptures about Jesus and taught about Jesus' death and resurrection.)*
5. How did the people respond? *(Many wanted to hear, but some rejected his teaching.)*
6. When the Jewish leaders did not want to hear his teaching, what did Paul do? *(He took the message to the Gentiles.)*

What's in the bag?? Gather the following items ahead of time and place them in an extra pillowcase (bible, notebook, coins, pen/pencil, map, chocolate, homemade cards). Explain that missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news

about Jesus. Let your child pull one of the items from the pillowcase and tell how they could use the item to support and encourage missionaries who have left their homes and gone to other places to tell people about Jesus. Encourage your child to respond creatively. Possible answers include: (Bibles–Send Bibles for missionaries to give away; Notebook–Make a prayer journal and pray; chocolate – send missionaries things they cannot get where they live; Coins–Give a missions offering at church etc.) Also encourage your child to share other ways they can help missionaries.

Pray: Name specific missionaries (Austin/Kelsey Keim) or mission work that you know about and pray for them. Also pray that God would show you ways you could be a missionary, too.

Avenue 56

Paul's Travels: Before beginning to read the scripture, ask your student if they can name some of the first missionaries from the Bible (Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, Silas). Reveal that today you will be learning about Paul and Barnabas who were called to go and share the good news of Jesus. **Read Acts 13.** Encourage your student to read the scripture out loud and help with words or phrases about which they might be confused

2 W and an H Question: Who are the main people in this story? (Paul & Barnabas – also Timothy but not a main character this time) Where were Paul and Barnabas when they were called and set apart as missionaries (at their home church in Antioch of Syria) Where did they go? (you might want to print out the map at the end of the Weekly Word and let your student explore Paul's travels – give them time to 'walk' through the 1st missionary journey and point out the length of time they were gone – 12-18 months) What happened at each stop along their journey? (some believed; some did not; they were persecuted; they continued to share the good news)

Finally, ask your students HOW this story applies to their life today? While God does not call each of us to be missionaries or to preach like Paul did, God DOES call each of us to share the good news. Even if/when trouble comes, God can and does still provide a way for the message of hope and grace to be shared. Ask HOW your student might share the good news (and/or support the missionaries that do go) right now. Make a list of everything they name and then decide as a family at least one thing that you will commit to doing together as a way of sharing the good news of Jesus.

Pray with your student, thanking God that He has made a way for people to tell others about Jesus. Thank God for the missionaries of the world and ask God to protect them.

Youth

We've come to the turning point in Acts. At least, it's a turning point from focusing on Peter to focusing on Paul's missionary journeys. Paul travels far and wide and has some amazing adventures (I personally LOVE Acts 17). God has taken a person sent to destroy the church and made him into the primary mouthpiece for the Gospel. What an unbelievable story of redemption. You know, God really is in the business of redeeming people through his amazing grace. Before he's ever sent out, though, this story begins with a group of faithful followers listening to God. And God speaks to them through the power of his Spirit. How might we listen to God this week? How might we hear a word from the Spirit? Where might the Spirit be calling us to go?

Introductory Questions:

1. Have you ever been sent out as a missionary? Where did you go? What did you do?
2. When serving on mission trips, what sorts of things do you learn about God? About yourself? About others?
3. How would you react if you were asked to preach the Gospel, like Paul?

Digging Deep: Read Acts 13.

Ask:

1. Who sent Paul and Barnabas out? What did they do before they sent them out?
2. Think back to last week, Paul's conversion, why is it amazing that Paul is now a missionary?
3. Why do you think God uses people like Paul (or David, or Moses, etc.) to spread the Gospel?
4. Why is it important in his sermon that Paul connects Jesus to all the stories from the Old Testament?
5. If you were preaching the story of the Gospel, what would you include?

Reflect: Take a moment and reflect on the many pieces of Paul's sermon. He references several stories throughout the Bible. Grab a piece of paper and a pen and sketch out who and what stories Paul mentions.

College

The Spirit Moves: Paul's Travels

As we move through Acts, the narrative begins to change once we get to chapter 13. Up to this point, the spread of the gospel has been primarily focused in and around the city of Jerusalem. We've caught glimpses of what it would look like for the faith to begin to go to the ends of the earth. At Pentecost, we see that God-fearing Jews *from every nation* received the Holy Spirit. Luke even makes the point of listing where some of them are from (Acts 2:1:11). And we also see Phillip meet the Ethiopian eunuch on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza where he shares the gospel with him (Acts 8:26-40). We can clearly see the trajectory of what's happening: God plans to bring all people from every part of the world to a saving faith in him.

While Saul came to faith on the road to Damascus, he still hasn't become a major figure in Acts, until we get to chapter 13. The passage for this week gives the details of Paul's first missionary journey. Given what is revealed to us in Scripture, we know Paul ultimately took four missionary journeys before his death.

-Read Acts 13:1-14:28

- As you read, make a note of the route Paul and Barnabas make as they complete their missionary journey. If you have a study Bible with a map, locate the cities and the route Paul and Barnabas took to get to each place.
- You'll notice that Paul and Barnabas go to cities to complete their work. Why go places that are unfamiliar?

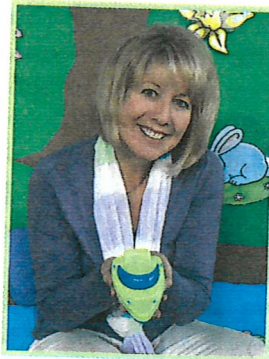
-Reflection Questions:

1. Why is it important that the *church* play a major role in sending out missionaries into the world? (13:1-3)
2. What role do fasting and praying have before Saul and Barnabas are sent off?
3. What kind of work are Paul and Barnabas doing as they go to the different cities?
4. Who is Bar-Jesus (Elymas)? What does Paul and Barnabas' "ministry" to him and Sergius Paulus look like?
5. What happens in Pisidian Antioch? (This is a different Antioch from the one where Paul and Barnabas begin and end their journey)
6. In Lystra, Paul and Barnabas labored earnestly in their ministry, but the results were not what they expected. How do you handle results and expectations in your life that don't go the way you had hoped?
7. Why do Paul and Barnabas go to the Jewish synagogue "as usual" (14:1) upon entering a new city? What places are, or could be, "usual" for you as you fulfill your task as a witness?

8. Why did Paul go back to the places he had already been? (14:21-22) Why is it important to continue to invest in places where you have served?
9. What places have made a mark on you where you've served? How did they leave such an impression on you?
10. "And they stayed there a long time with the disciples (in Syrian Antioch)" (14:28). Do you think you would want to stay furloughed after completing such hard work for a long time (roughly 3 years for Paul and Barnabas), or would you want to get back at it? Why is rest and a change of pace important?

Introduction

Show toy boat. **Where do people ride boats?** (River. Ocean.) **What do you think it would be like to be on a boat during a big storm?** Volunteers tell ideas. **Listen to find out about Paul's trip on a boat.** (Hold Bible open to Acts 27 as you tell the story.)



Little Waves

Paul and many other people climbed onto a big boat called a ship. They were going to a country on the other side of a big sea of water. It would take days and days and DAYS to sail across the big sea.

When the winds had gently blown the ship far out on the sea, Paul and the other people on the ship could not see land anywhere. All they could see was the water around them. And all they could hear was the splish-splash of the little waves hitting against the sides of the big boat.

Great Big Waves

Then one day, the wind began to blow harder and harder. The waves splashed higher and higher. The waves rocked the ship up and down and from side to side. SPLASH! CRASH! The waves splashed high in the air and into the ship. The waves almost knocked the ship over on its side! Big dark clouds covered the sky. Rain came pouring down. It was very dark. No one could see the stars at night or the sun during the day. Everyone on the ship was afraid. They thought they were going to drown! But God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul that God would keep everyone on the ship safe.

Paul cared about the people on the boat. He called the people on the ship together. He said, "Don't be afraid. God loves us. Last night God sent an angel to tell me that God will take care of all of us. Cheer up! Have some food to eat!" Paul trusted God. He said, "I KNOW that God will do what He says He is going to do."

A Broken Ship

Day after day, the wind kept blowing the ship harder and harder. Early one morning, the sailors saw land! They got ready to sail to the beach. But the big strong waves pushed the ship into some sand just under the water. CRASH! The ship broke apart into little pieces. All the people jumped into the water. Some people started swimming. Other people grabbed pieces of the broken ship and floated to the beach. Every person landed on the little island. They were safe!

God had kept His promise. He had taken care of everyone on the ship. Paul trusted God. Paul knew that God will do whatever He says He will do. The people on the big boat must have been glad Paul had shown God's love for them by making sure they had food and telling them of God's love and care.

Conclusion

During the big storm, Paul showed God's love to everyone on the ship. We can ask God to help us to be good friends and show His love. The Bible says, "A friend loves at all times."

(Optional: Review story by using pages 507-512 in *God's Story for Me Bible storybook*.)

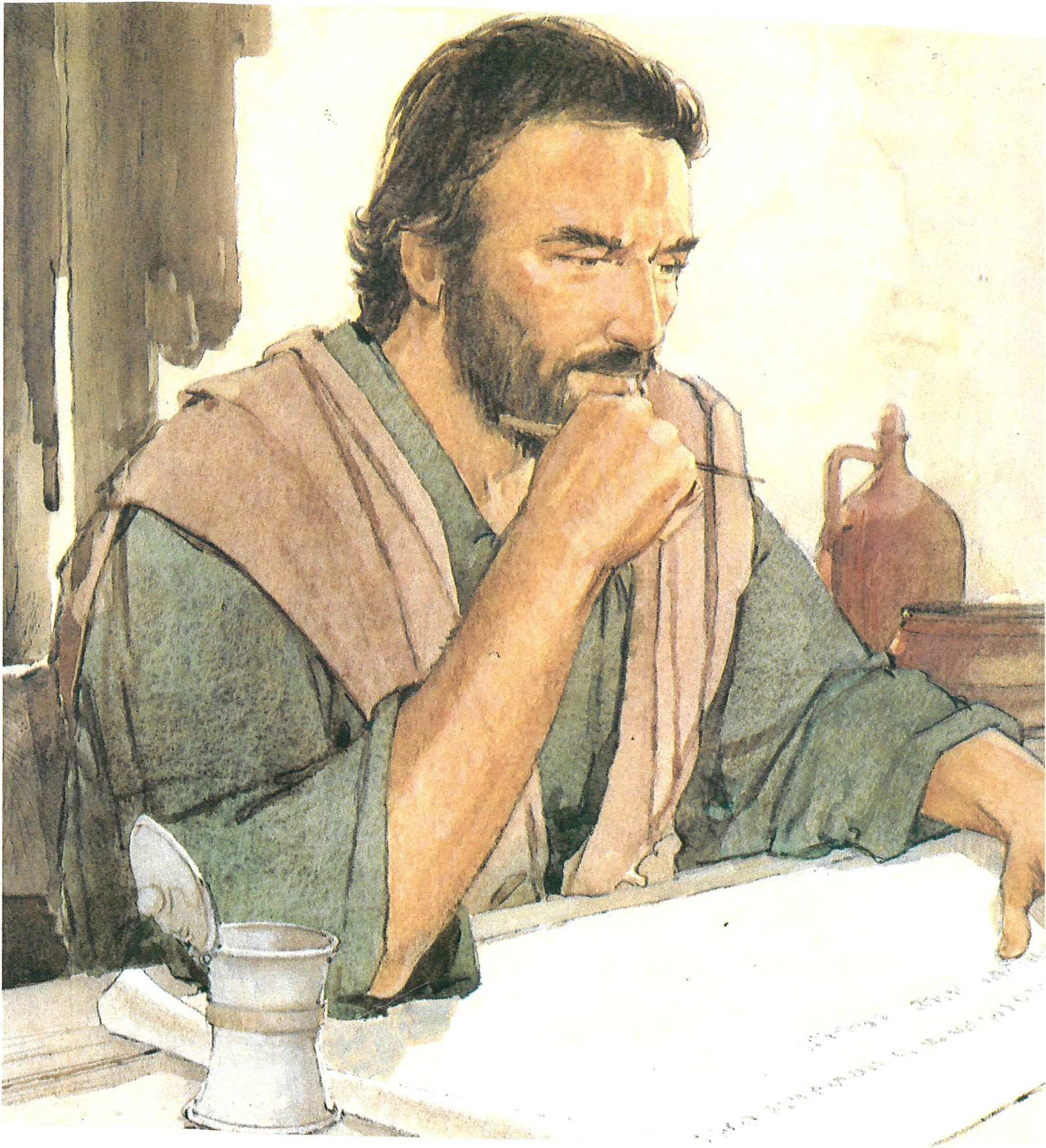
Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Use masking tape to outline a large boat shape in the storytelling area. Invite children to sit in the boat shape and hold blue crepe-paper streamers as you tell the story. Children act out being in a boat in a storm and wave streamers to make water and wind. (Note: Remember to remove the tape immediately after use.)



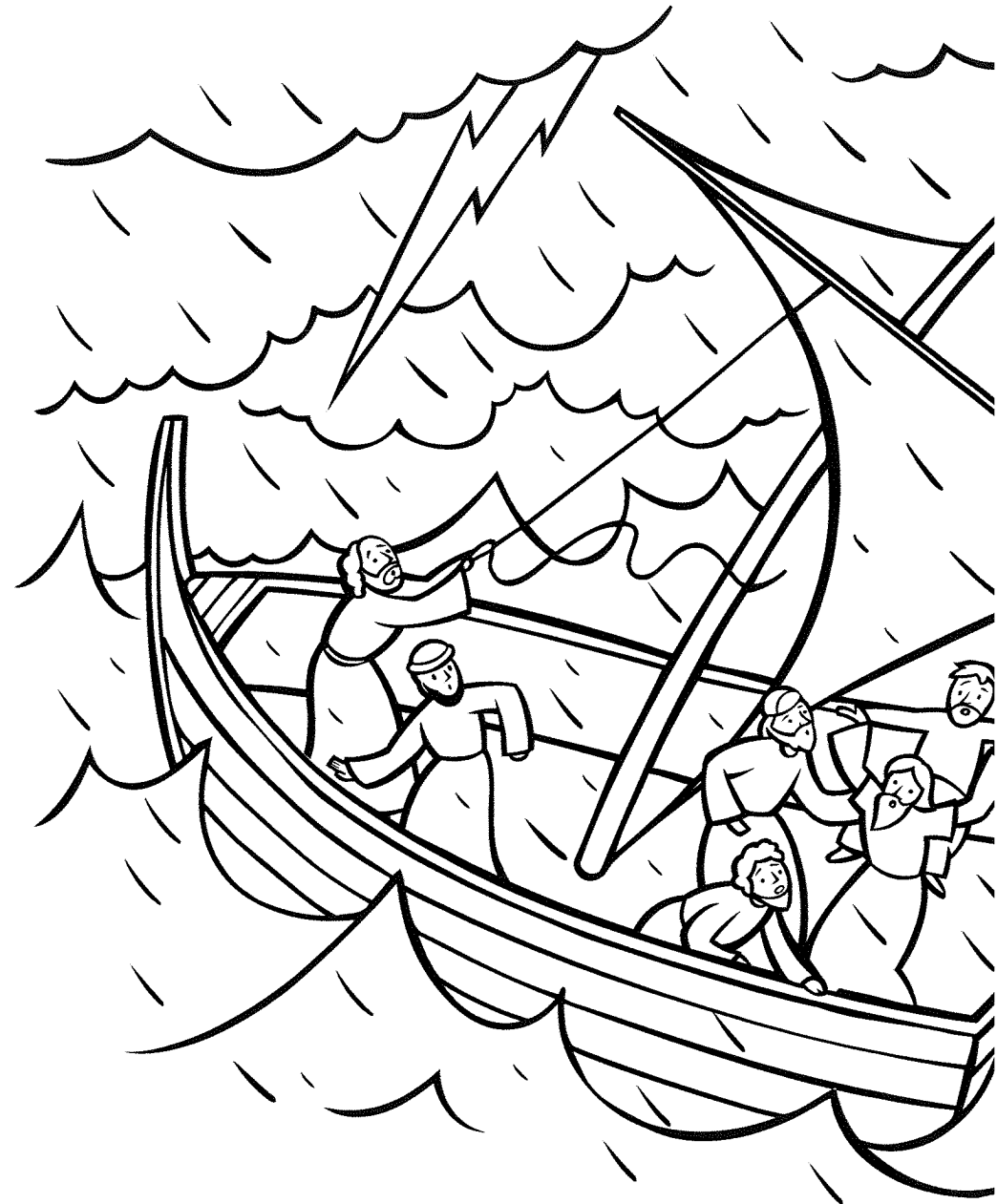
Acts 28:1-6 Paul's Snake Bite

The people on the island were kind to the shipwrecked Paul. Because of the rain and cold, the islanders of Malta welcomed the visitors. In order to help, Paul added a bundle of sticks to the fire as he did, a snake came out of the fire and bit him. When the people of Malta saw the snake hanging on Paul's arm, among themselves saying, "Certainly this man is blasphemous; he has escaped the sea, he will not live". Then they watched Paul throw the snake into the fire. They continued to watch Paul through the night, but the snakebite. His hand did not swell at all, and he did not die. Then the islanders changed their minds from thinking he was a god. They did not understand that heaven was watching over Paul and miraculously Paul survived the rest of the trip to Rome, and the next day he spoke to his church friends from his prison. God speaks to us through his letters are included in the New Testament.



PAUL IN A STORM

Paul served God. He was brave and loved God. Color this picture of Paul



A snake bites Paul.

Acts 28:1-6



