LESSON 23

WITH GOD IN DANGER



Aim: **To teach the children that God was with Paul when he was in great danger. God is with us, too, every step of the way.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 27:1-44**

Memory Verse: **Romans 8:38-39**
... I am convinced that neither death nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Most of us have been in danger at some time in our lives. Give an example from your own life. We become frightened, but the Lord has promised to be with us always and in every situation.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Paul was going to be in great danger. He had to make a long journey by sea from the town of Caesarea in Palestine to Rome in Italy. He was going to Rome to go on trial before the emperor.
   The ship's captain wanted to continue with the journey, even though the weather was bad. He ignored Paul's warning and set out (27:9-12).
   Note: The story of the storm is told very clearly in the Bible. **Read 27:13-44 several times beforehand so that you are able to tell it to the class in your own words.**
2. At first everything went well. Then the winds became very strong. It was impossible to steer the ship in that storm (27:13-15).
3. First, the sailors passed some ropes under and over the ship, and fastened them tightly. In that way, they hoped to strengthen the ship (27:17).
4. Next, they threw the cargo into the sea in order to make the ship lighter. Then followed the ship's tackle (27:18-19). That shows how desperate they were, because the tackle is the equipment used to move the ship's sails into position.
5. When several days of darkness came, everyone became convinced that they were all going to die (27:20).
6. However, Paul told them to keep their courage. He had received a message from God that they had nothing to fear. Not one of them was going to die, although they would lose the ship (27:21-26).
7. After 14 days they came near land, and the sailors tried to escape. Paul stopped them (27:27-32). Paul urged them to eat some food to build up their strength, and did so himself. They followed his example (27:33-38).

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8. When the ship came close to the land, it began to break up. **Show Picture 23.** People jumped into the sea, even some who could not swim. Some held on to pieces that had broken off the ship. In one way or another all arrived on land safely, just as God had promised (27:39-44).

Our Response to the Story

God did not remove the danger in which Paul found himself, but God was right there by his side. Sometimes God does remove the danger, but at other times he does not. However, God is always with us, no matter what the situation. Nothing can take God's love away from those who trust in him, as the memory verse says.

Instil the Memory Verse



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