



SESSION OBJECTIVE:

To understand that Jesus' power gives us hope.

The Word is a Lamp

Acts chapter 27 presents a scenario that would have been very discouraging. Paul was in transit as a prisoner being led by a Roman centurion. After being transferred to and from several ships they, “came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea” (Acts 27:9). Paul, however, was able to perceive that their coming journey via ship would be dangerous, and he warned them: “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives” (Acts 27:10). However, “the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said” (Acts 27:11). Things at first seemed ok, but then, “a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land. And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along” (Acts 27:14-15). They began to jettison the cargo for several days, even removing the ship’s tackle. They were desperate, trying anything to remove as much weight as possible so as to save the ship. These events left them with a sense of hopelessness: “When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned” (Acts 27:20).

Paul began to speak once they were settled, reminding the men that he warned them and that they should have listened. However, he consoled them as well: “For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you. So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. But we must run aground on some island’” (Acts 27:23-26). Without food and desperate, Paul comforted them with a vision he received that assured him that he and the men he was traveling with would not die. A revelation from God. For us, we have the final revelation of Christ in the Scriptures. There are times when life might feel hopeless, and it is God’s Words that attest to Jesus’

power that brings comfort and hope. Psalm 119:105 reads, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” It illuminates our darkest moments and grants direction when we feel lost. The next time you feel hopeless, turn to God’s Word.

Questions:

1. Icebreaker: Has the Word of God ever lifted you out of a feeling of hopelessness?
2. Why is it important for the kids to learn this lesson?
3. How do you think Paul’s vision made the others feel? Do you think any of them were skeptical? Do you relate to that?
4. How does being reminded of Christ’s sovereign power over the world help calm you when you feel defeated?

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 31:24

“Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!”