

Summary

Big Idea

God's guidance sometimes leads us into storms to reveal His strength in weakness.

Paul's journey to Rome, as recorded in Acts 27:15-28:16, demonstrates that God's guidance doesn't always guarantee smooth sailing. Paul was instructed by Jesus to preach in Rome, yet he faced a fierce storm and was shipwrecked. This incident illustrates that hardship can be part of God's divine plan. Despite the dire circumstances, an angel assured Paul of God's presence, promising that he would stand trial before Caesar and all aboard would be saved. This points to a profound truth: God's purposes are often fulfilled amid adversity, and His strength in us is revealed in our weakness.

The ship's wreckage serves as a metaphor for the breakdown of plans and reliance on God. Paul's ability to maintain faith, even when bitten by a snake on Malta and after losing the ship, emphasized his reliance on God's power. By embracing his own weakness, Paul allowed God's grace to be sufficient, turning moments of vulnerability into demonstrations of divine power. For fathers and believers alike, Paul's journey offers reassurance that faith in Christ sustains us through life's shipwrecks, transforming our weakness into strength and ensuring His purposes prevail.

Keys and Themes

1. God's Guidance in Hardship

God's guidance doesn't prevent suffering. While sailing to Rome, Paul faced a violent storm and eventual shipwreck, all part of God's plan. This challenges the assumption that divine direction always ensures ease. God's guidance includes trials that test and grow our faith, like the storm that Paul encountered. We learn that following God can lead to unpredicted hardships, yet these are part of the sanctifying journey He's designed.

2. Courage in God's Presence

When all hope seemed lost, an angel visited Paul, assuring him of God's plan. This courage wasn't based on the storm's cessation or the ship's safety, but on faith in God's promise. Despite external chaos, Paul found peace in God's words, offering a reminder that courage arises not from our circumstances but from the unwavering presence and promises of God. This echoes into our lives, where real courage is cultivated through trust in God's enduring presence.

3. Lessons from the Shipwreck

The shipwreck represents the failure of human plans and the breaking of personal idols. As the ship broke apart, so too did the illusion of self-reliance. The metaphor of the wrecked ship teaches reliance on God when our efforts fail, shaping our character and priorities. It's in these breakdowns that God's power and grace shine through. We often build our identities around 'ships' like achievements or skills, but God refocuses us on His sufficiency instead.

4. Strength in Weakness

On Malta, after surviving shipwreck and a venomous snake bite, Paul displayed remarkable resilience, immediately turning to ministry. This scene underscores how faith enables strength in weakness, revealing God's power amid human frailty. Paul's experiences teach us that our weaknesses are not limitations but opportunities for God's grace. Fathers, and all believers, are encouraged to lean into God's strength, understanding that His power is made perfect when we acknowledge our limitations.

5. God's Provision and Completion

Despite setbacks, Paul eventually reached Rome, fulfilling God's promise. Interestingly, this final leg involved a ship with pagan symbols, yet God used it to complete the journey. This illustrates God's sovereignty over all circumstances, including those that seem unfavorable or unlikely. It's a testament that God's purposes cannot be thwarted by external appearances or worldly powers. Trusting in God's provision means recognizing His hand in unexpected places, ensuring our mission is completed.

Sermon Notes Handout

Sermon Title: When Gods Guidance Leads to Shipwreck | **Scripture:** Ac. 27:15-28:16

Big Idea: God's guidance sometimes leads us into storms to reveal His strength in weakness.

Point 1: God's Guidance in Hardship

Fill in the blank: God's guidance can lead us right into the _____ that completely breaks our ship apart.

Question: How might God use hardship to fulfill His purposes in your life?

Notes:

Point 2: Courage in God's Presence

Fill in the blank: Courage comes from _____, not from ease.

Question: Where do you find courage in difficult circumstances?

Notes:

Point 3: Lessons from the Shipwreck

Fill in the blank: The lost ship teaches us to rely on God's _____.

Question: What 'ships' might you need to let go of to trust God more?

Notes:

Point 4: Strength in Weakness

Fill in the blank: For when I am _____, then I am strong.

Question: How can admitting your weakness open you to God's strength?

Notes:

Point 5: God's Provision and Completion

Fill in the blank: God fulfilled His promise despite _____, using unexpected means.

Question: Where have you seen God's provision in unexpected ways?

Notes:

Reflection Question: Have you ever experienced a situation where God's guidance led you into a challenge or storm?

Next Step: Identify an area in your life where you need to trust God's sovereignty amid difficulty.

Family Discussion Question: How can our family support each other's faith during life's storms?

Daily Devotional

Sunday — God's Guidance in Hardship

Scripture: Acts 27:15-20

Paul's journey teaches us that following God doesn't exempt us from trials. God told Paul to go to Rome, but this command led him directly into a storm. This highlights a fundamental truth about God's guidance: it often includes trials that test our resolve and develop our character. Just as Paul remained calm during the storm, we too are called to trust God amidst life's uncertainties. God doesn't promise a storm-free life, but His presence in our storm gives us hope and strength.

Reflect Questions:

1. *When have you noticed God's presence during a personal storm?*
 2. *How do you respond when God's guidance leads you into difficulty?*
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Monday — Courage in God's Presence

Scripture: Acts 27:21-25

In the middle of chaos, Paul was assured of God's presence through an angel. Despite desperate circumstances, Paul's courage came from God's promise, not improved conditions. We often seek peace from changing external factors, but true peace and courage come from trusting God's assurance and presence. Like Paul, we find courage through being rooted in faith, believing in God's words and promises more than our immediate circumstances.

Reflect Questions:

1. *What assurances from God bring you peace in chaos?*
 2. *How can you cultivate courage through faith in your daily life?*
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Tuesday — Lessons from the Shipwreck

Scripture: Acts 27:39-44

The shipwreck teaches us that sometimes we must let go of what we trust most to rely fully on God. Paul's ship was essential for travel, yet God allowed it to break apart. This empowers us to reassess what we depend on and be willing to let go when God calls us to trust Him more deeply. In moments of 'shipwreck,' we learn that God's plans are not halted by human failures but are fulfilled through divine grace and strength.

Reflect Questions:

1. *What have you been clinging to that might hinder your trust in God?*
 2. *How can God use a 'shipwreck' to redirect your path towards His will?*
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Wednesday — Strength in Weakness

Scripture: Acts 28:1-6; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Paul's reaction to the snake bite on Malta embodies his belief that God's power is perfected in weakness. Despite dire circumstances, Paul's unwavering faith transformed vulnerability into strength. We often view weaknesses as failures, but God uses our weakest moments to reveal His strength. Our limitations become platforms for God's glory when we surrender them to Him. As Paul demonstrated, faith enables us to witness God's power in our frailties.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. What weaknesses in your life can you surrender to God?*
 - 2. How can God's strength be revealed through your vulnerability?*
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Thursday — God's Provision and Completion

Scripture: Acts 28:11-16

The ship that carried Paul to Rome was adorned with images of pagan gods, yet God used it to fulfill His promise. This highlights His sovereignty, showing that nothing can thwart His plans. Often, God's provision comes from unexpected places, teaching us to trust Him deeply. We're reminded that God can commandeer all things, even those consecrated to other 'gods,' to achieve His purposes. Trust in His divine orchestration, knowing His plans will come to fruition.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. What unexpected provision has God used in your life?*
 - 2. How can you grow in trust for God's sovereignty over every situation?*
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Friday — Faith Through Discomfort

Scripture: Acts 27:15-28:16

Throughout Paul's journey, discomfort was a constant theme, from the rocky sea to the unwelcome shore. Yet, his faith did not waver, signifying a deep trust in God's ultimate plan. We often resist discomfort, but these moments are where faith grows strongest. Learning to find faith and trust in God amidst discomfort teaches us resilience. God uses discomfort not to punish but to strengthen our reliance on His promises, leading us towards spiritual maturity.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. How has discomfort been an avenue for growth in your life?*
 - 2. What steps can you take to embrace faith in uncomfortable circumstances?*
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Saturday — Resilient Faith

Scripture: Acts 27:15-28:16; James 1:2-4

Resilience in faith is not developed in times of ease but through trials. James encourages believers to find joy in trials, knowing they produce perseverance. Paul's journey reflects this truth, as each hardship only solidified his determination and faith. Building resilient faith means embracing trials as opportunities for growth, trusting that God will use them for His glory. Approaching life's challenges with a mindset of growth transforms our trials into

testimonies of God's faithfulness.

Reflect Questions:

- 1. What trial has helped strengthen your faith?*
- 2. How can you find joy even in life's challenging situations?*

Study Questions

Read Ac. 27:15-28:16 and listen to the Sermon "When Gods Guidance Leads to Shipwreck," 6/21/2026

Observation

- 1) What mission was Paul on that led him to sail to Rome?
- 2) How did the crew attempt to save the ship during the storm?
- 3) What did Paul do and say after the angel visited him?
- 4) How did Paul and the others finally reach land after the shipwreck?

Interpretation

- 1) Why did God allow Paul to experience a shipwreck despite guiding him?
- 2) How does Paul's response to the storm and shipwreck demonstrate his faith?
- 3) What does the snake incident on Malta illustrate about Paul's character?
- 4) How does Paul's journey to Rome, including the hardships faced, reaffirm God's sovereignty?

Application

- 1) How can we apply the lesson of perseverance in the face of life's storms?
- 2) What are some 'ships' in your life that God might be asking you to let go of?
- 3) How can we find courage in God's presence during difficult times?
- 4) In what ways can you encourage others who are facing 'shipwrecks' in their lives?