

Power to Witness in Word and Deed—Part 2*The Book of Acts***Acts 27:1–26****Read Acts 27:1–12.**

1. Why is Paul on his way to Italy (and, more specifically, Rome)? (25:9–12)
2. Who is making the trip along with Paul? (vv. 1–2; 📖* For more about Aristarchus, see 19:29; 20:3–4; Col. 4:10)
3. Beginning in Caesarea, trace their voyage on the map in your folder. (vv. 3–12)
4. What kindness does Julius, the Roman centurion, show Paul in Sidon? (v. 3)
5. Scan back through verses 4–8. How would you describe this part of their trip?
6. Paul warns his fellow travelers of the dangers of sailing so late in the year (vv. 9–10). What qualifies him to give them advice on matters of sailing? (13:4, 13; 14:26; 16:11; etc. 📖 2 Cor. 11:25)

Read Acts 27:13–26.

7. The crew takes the gentle south wind as a good sign—but they are wrong.
 - a. What happens? (vv. 14–15)
 - b. What measures does the crew take to try to avoid disaster? (vv. 16–19)
 - c. Is anything these humans do effective in the face of this powerful storm? (v. 20)
8. Why do you think Paul begins his little speech in verses 21–26 by reminding his fellow travelers that they should have listened to him before?

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

9. What mercy does God give Paul in the midst of this dire situation? (v. 23)

10. What additional mercy does God show? (v. 24; To see the magnitude of this blessing, see 27:37.)

What hardship still lies ahead? (v. 26)

11. How does Paul describe his relationship with God? (vv. 23, 25)

12. Acts began with the declaration of God's plan for the advancement of the gospel "to the ends of the earth" (1:8). Read the following verses that trace the thread of Paul's part in God's big plan. How do you see God's purposes for Paul unfolding even in circumstances that seem out of control?

Acts 9:15–16

Acts 21:10–11

Rom. 1:10–15 (Note that Paul probably wrote this letter to the Romans shortly before he travelled to Jerusalem with the gift from the Gentile churches.)

Acts 23:11

Acts 27:23–24a

What picture emerges of God?

13. How do you generally respond to overwhelming situations?

14. Though God rarely sends angels to speak to his people, what is one thing he has given us that provides comfort and security in the storms we face? (Ps. 119:28, 50)

What verses do you run to when you're feeling overwhelmed? If you can't think of any, consider memorizing and meditating on one of the verses someone in your group shares.