WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of Sunday November 15, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 27:20–26,** Paul speaks with courage while everyone around him is losing hope. God is not promising us a life without storms or that every situation will end the way we want. Instead, He invites us to trust His Word even when our circumstances seem uncertain. When fear, discouragement, and the pressures of life become overwhelming, we must decide what we will believe and how we will respond.

Main Passage:

Acts 27:20–26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I Believe God

READ ALOUD

Acts 27:20–26

Opening Question: When have someone's encouraging words helped you through a difficult situation?

- What stands out to you about the situation Paul and the others were facing?
- What did God tell Paul, and how did Paul respond?
- Why do you think Paul could speak with courage even though the storm had not stopped?
- How might trusting what God says change the way we respond to difficult circumstances?

APPLY

- What is a situation in your life right now where fear, worry, or uncertainty feels overwhelming?
- What voices or thoughts tend to influence you most when you're facing difficult circumstances?
- How can we distinguish between trusting God's promises and simply hoping He will give us the outcome we want?

RESPOND

- What promise from Scripture can you hold onto this week? How would you finish the statement, "I believe God that..."?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to live according to that promise?

DIGGING DEEPER *(optional)*

Acts 27:27–44

- What stands out to you about how Paul and the others responded as the storm continued?
- How did Paul's trust in God influence the practical decisions he made?
- What does the ending of this chapter teach us about trusting God when things don't happen the way we expect?

PRAY

Invite group members to share an area where they need to trust God more fully. Pray for the courage to believe His Word, the wisdom to recognize His truth above other voices, and the faith to obey Him even when circumstances are uncertain. Thank Jesus for His grace, His presence, and His faithfulness through every season of life.

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Acts 27:20–26

- What was happening to Paul and the people on the boat?
- How do you think everyone felt during the storm?
- What did God tell Paul that gave him courage?
- When something makes you afraid or worried, how can you remind yourself that God is with you?

For younger children: Remind your children that they can talk to Jesus whenever they feel afraid and trust that He hears their prayers.

For older kids or students: What is something you're worried about right now, and how could trusting what God says change the way you handle it?

BIBLE READING PLAN (OPTIONAL)

Scripture to read as you pray this week:

- **Day 1:** Acts 28:1–6
- **Day 2:** Acts 28:7–10
- **Day 3:** Acts 28:11–16
- **Day 4:** Acts 28:17–22
- **Day 5:** Acts 28:23–31

What's Going On?

In Acts 27, Paul is being transported as a prisoner to Rome, where God has already told him he will testify about Jesus (Acts 23:11). Along the way, a violent storm threatens everyone aboard the ship. After many days without sunlight, direction, or hope of survival, God sends a message reassuring Paul that he will reach Rome and that everyone traveling with him will survive.

Paul's circumstances don't immediately improve, but he chooses to believe what God has said. His confidence leads him to encourage others and make wise decisions as the storm continues. Eventually, the ship is destroyed, but all 276 people reach land safely.

The passage reminds us that God's faithfulness is not measured by the absence of hardship. Paul was following God's direction and still encountered a storm. God's specific promise to Paul was that he would reach Rome and the people aboard would survive. We should not assume God has promised us identical outcomes, but we can trust His character, His Word, and His presence as we follow Him.

A Bit of Background

Traveling across the Mediterranean Sea in late autumn was especially dangerous because of unpredictable weather and violent storms. Sailors depended heavily on the sun and stars for navigation. When Acts 27 says they went many days without seeing either, it means they had lost their ability to determine their direction.

This helps us understand the seriousness of their situation. Paul wasn't ignoring the danger or pretending everything was fine. His courage came from trusting what God had actually said, even before he could see evidence that their situation would improve.