References

Memory Verse
“Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that God wants us to think positive and encouraging thoughts.
Feel compassion for people in trouble.
Respond by encouraging others in difficult situations.

The Message
We serve others when we encourage them.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Paul and others are in a terrible storm aboard ship. God sends an angel to comfort and encourage Paul. Paul shares the angel’s news that none on the ship will lose their lives. Paul encourages others to eat some food, and again tells them they won’t die. The ship runs aground, but all reach shore safely. On Malta the islanders show kindness by building a fire to warm them. Publius, the chief of Malta, invites the people to his home. He takes care of them for three days. Paul heals Publius’s father and others who are sick.

This a lesson about service.
God used Paul to encourage and bless others in times of trouble. We too can encourage and bring blessings to others in distress and ill health. We can serve God by our encouraging words and actions.

Teacher Enrichment
“The soldiers saw that while endeavoring to reach land it would be impos-
NINE

Program Outline

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<td>Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled</td>
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| 1 Readiness Activities | up to 10 | A. Cardboard Boat  
B. Healthy Choices  
C. Stormy Water | cardboard boxes, craft materials  
things good for sick people: soup, blankets, healthy food, vitamins, bandages, water, etc.; items not good for sick people: sweets, etc.  
basin or large pan, small plastic boats, vinegar, baking soda, shakers (optional) |
| 2 Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 93. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | box boats from Readiness Activity A or sheet or masking tape, umbrellas, spray bottles for rain, blankets or towels, wood for fire, male voice of Paul |
|                |         | Bible Study | Bible |
|                |         | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | Encouraging Words | chalkboard or white board (optional), chalk or marker (optional), building blocks (optional) |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | Encouragement Boats | walnut shell halves (optional), or Folding Boat directions (see p. 147), or paper (optional), markers |

sible for them to keep their prisoners in charge. Every man would have all he could do to save himself. Yet if any of the prisoners were missing, the lives of those who were responsible for them would be forfeited. Hence the soldiers desired to put all the prisoners to death. The Roman law sanctioned this cruel policy, and the plan would have been executed at once, but . . . Julius the centurion knew that Paul had been instrumental in saving the lives of all on board, and, moreover, convinced that the Lord was with him, he feared to do him harm. . . . When the roll was called, not one was missing” (The Acts of the Apostles, p. 445).

How do you encourage and support others?

Room Decorations
See Lesson 6.
Welcome
Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Ask if they brought anything for the community service project. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1 Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Cardboard Boat
You Need:
- cardboard boxes
- craft materials

You will need one box for every three to four children to sit in. Tell the children the boxes are their boats. Have them decorate/color them with whatever craft materials you have available. You can use these for Experiencing the Story.

Debriefing
Allow responses as you ask: What are boats used for? Have you ever been on a boat? Do you like riding on boats? Why? What would it be like if you were on a boat in the middle of a storm? (frightening, exciting, worried whether the boat was OK) Our Bible story today is about people on a ship in a bad storm and how someone encouraged them. Today’s message is:

We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.

B. Healthy Choices
You Need:
- things good for sick people (soup, blankets, healthy food, vitamins, bandages, water, etc.)
- items not good for sick people (sweets, etc.)

Display items (or use pictures). Have the children separate those good for sick people from those bad for sick people. Let all participate.

Debriefing
Hold up some items one at a time. Allow responses as you ask: Why is this good (or bad) for you? Which of these would you give to someone who is sick? How can you help someone who is sick? Our Bible story today is about someone who encouraged people on a boat not to be afraid, and about how he encouraged sick people by helping them get well. Today’s message is:

We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.
C. Stormy Water

You Need:
- basin or large pan
- small plastic boats
- vinegar
- baking soda
- shakers (optional)

Fill the pot or large pan with vinegar. Have the children float their boats. Give them shakers of baking soda, and tell them to sprinkle it on the “water” like rain. The soda will react with the vinegar to create a simulated storm.

Debriefing
Ask: Have you ever ridden in a boat? How did you like it? What would it be like if you were on a boat in a storm? If you were scared, what would you do? (pray, hold on tight, look for mom or dad)

Our Bible story today is about people in a terrible storm, and how someone encouraged them. Today’s message is:

We serve others when we encourage them.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Fellowship
Report the students’ joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week’s lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
“I Want to Be Like Jesus” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 194)
“I Will Use My Hands for Him” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 303)
“Jesus Loves the Little Children” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 309)
“Kind Lips” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 310)
“You’ve Got to Tell” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 315)

Mission
Use a story from Children’s Mission.

Offering
Say: Our offerings encourage others to know about Jesus.

Prayer
Ask the children to name someone they know who is sick. Write the name of a sick person on an adhesive bandage, and give it to a child. Have the children stick the bandages on a poster board/prayer board as a reminder to pray for others. Ask Jesus to be with those who are sick.

You Need:
- adhesive bandages
- marker
- poster board

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Tell the children they are going to pretend they are taking a boat trip with Paul. In a large group, have some children be the storm; in a small group, let a teacher be the storm. Have children get inside the box boats they made (Readiness Activity A), or sit on the sheet, or sit on the floor in an area that you have outlined with masking tape to represent the boat.

Read or tell the story.

Paul was traveling on a big boat with more than 200 other passengers when a bad storm began. The ship rocked back and forth, back and forth. [Have a child or teacher shake the boat or sheet.] It began to rain, harder and harder. [Have children in the boat put up an umbrella, and have a teacher spray water on the umbrella.] All the people in the boat were afraid; they thought the boat would break apart and they would surely drown! [Have children act afraid.]

For 14 days the storm raged. The people in the boat did not eat during all that time.

[(Voice of Paul shouting above the storm:) “Please! You have been without food all these days; you must eat! You need strength! Do not be afraid. An angel told me last night that God will save all who are in the boat, but we will crash on an island. I trust God. He has promised to save all of us.”]

The boat got closer and closer to land. Suddenly it hit some land, and the big waves smashed against it and broke the boat to pieces. [Have the children get out of the boats; tear the box boats to pieces. Have each child hang on to a piece as if they were floating.] The water was very cold. Everyone held on to a piece of the boat and floated to land. When they reached shore, they were cold and wet. People who lived on the island came to help them. They built a fire so people from the boat could get dry and warm. [Have the children gather around a pile of sticks, and wrap blankets/towels around them. Have them shiver as if they are cold and wet.] They gave them food and dry clothes.

As Paul was gathering sticks of wood for the fire, a poisonous snake called a viper bit him on his arm. Paul quickly shook his arm and the snake fell into the fire. The people were sure Paul would die, but he didn’t.

The leader of those people was Publius. A kind man, he took Paul to his home and cared for him for three days. Paul learned that Publius’s father was very sick. He went to the sick man and prayed for him. [Have one child be the sick person; have the other children gather around and put hands on him/her. Pray that the person will get better. Have the “sick” child stand after the prayer.] Publius’s father was healed—he got well. Many people heard that Paul had helped Publius’s father, and they came to Paul too. Paul was happy to tell them about Jesus and about God’s healing power. He prayed for all the sick people, and God made them well.

Paul encouraged many people during that time. He encouraged the people on the boat. And he encouraged and helped the people on the island. God wants us to encourage and pray for others too.

Debriefing

Allow responses as you ask: Who was on the boat? How do you think they felt when the storm...
lasted so long? What did an angel tell Paul? What did Paul say to encourage the people? Whose message was it?

Why did Paul ask God to heal Publius’s father? Did Paul’s prayers for healing Publius’s father and others give them encouragement? (yes) Do you think the other people wanted to know more about God because of the encouragement Paul gave to them? Remember our message? Let’s say it together:

We serve others when we encourage them.

Bible Study
Open your Bible to Acts 27:13–28:10. Point to the text and say: This is where today’s story is found in the Bible. Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Debriefing
Allow responses as you ask: Why were the people on the boat afraid? (The storm was bad; they thought the boat would sink.) What did Paul say the angel told him? (Everyone would be safe; they would crash on an island.) What did Paul do when he was on the island? (He prayed for sick people, and God healed them.) Who was kind to Paul and the others? Who invited Paul to stay at his home? (Publius) Paul encouraged the people. God wants us to encourage people too. Remember . . .

You Need:

Memory Verse
Turn to 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and say: This is where we find our memory verse in God’s Word, the Bible. Read the text aloud. “Encourage one another and build each other up.” Then proceed to teach the memory verse as outlined below.

Encourage one another
and build each other up.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

You Need:

Bible

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Bible