

TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for November 27 – December 3, 2022

“ACTS IN 30” Chapter 27: *Despite Storms and Shipwreck, Paul’s Faith Endures*

CHAPTER OVERVIEW: Throughout the Book of Acts, we see men and women of faith who consistently share one key quality: **endurance**. Paul demonstrates this characteristic of faith in Acts 27. After winning his final appeal, Paul (and Luke) set sail for Rome. The feeling of victory will be short-lived, however. Driven by an economic need, the leaders decide to sail right before winter, which is the most perilous time of year. Paul prophesies that they will endure great distress on this voyage, but that “*not one hair shall perish from any one of you*” (vs. 34). Despite storms and being shipwrecked, Paul faithfully **endures** and ministers to everyone on the doomed voyage.

DAY 1 Paul Finally Sails For Rome

READ: Acts 27:1-12

REFLECT: Paul and Luke join 276 others - mostly prisoners – who were being sent to Rome. The Centurion in charge – Julius – treats Paul favorably and even allows him to leave the ship to visit friends at different ports along the way (v. 3). Paul prophetically warns the Centurion that their voyage is doomed and that they should wait until after winter to continue. Perhaps driven by greed, the pilot of the ship decides to continue sailing towards Rome – ignoring the spiritual guidance of the Apostle Paul.

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Read Proverbs 15:22. What does this verse say about receiving godly counsel and how does it relate to Acts 27:11?

Application Question: Have you ever made a big decision too quickly? Why is it important for us to invite wise counsel into our lives?

DAY 2 Storms at Sea

READ: Acts 27:13-38

REFLECT: Paul’s prophetic warning comes to pass. The ship is tossed by a violent nor’easter for 14 days (vs. 27). Paul reminds them that even though they ignored his wise counsel, he still encourages them by sharing a dream that he had where an Angel appears to him with words of comfort (vs. 23-24). Paul faithfully **endures** as he overlooks their transgression and even serves them communion (35).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Review some of the other times that Angels intervened in the Book of Acts (Acts 5:19; 8:26; 10:3; 12:7; 12:23).

Application Question: Do you believe Angels still intervene for believers today as they did in the Book of Acts? If so, how do Angelic forces help us to **endure** the storms of life faithfully like Paul did during times of crises and distress?

DAY 3 Shipwrecked but Unfazed

READ: Acts 27:39-44

REFLECT: When their ship strikes a reef, the stern collapses and they are in danger of drowning. The soldiers want to kill the prisoners before any of them escape (v. 42), but the Centurion Julius intervenes and spares them (v. 43). Paul’s prophetic promise comes to pass (v. 34), and all 276 on board are “*brought safely to land*” (vs. 44).

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: How does the end of verse 44 express the fulfillment of Acts 23:11 and Acts 27:24?

Application Question: What is a promise that God has spoken to you that you will believe will happen one day? In Paul’s case, it seemed like he would never be sent to Rome – which is what Jesus promised him in Acts 23:11. In spite of prison, house arrests, storms at sea and now being shipwrecked, Paul’s faith **endures** the testing of that word. What can you learn from how Paul faithfully endured these tests and how can it be applied in your own life?

DAY 4 Endurance is the Key to Faithful Obedience

READ: Matthew 10:22; Luke 21:19; Romans 5:3-4; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 2:12-13; Revelation 3:10; Revelation 14:12-13

REFLECT: Throughout the Book of Acts, we see men and women of faith who consistently share one key quality: **endurance**. Paul demonstrates this characteristic of faith in Acts 27 and we need to remember that all of these stories from the Bible are “*written for our encouragement that through endurance we might have HOPE*” (Romans 15:4). How do these verse give you hope this season?

JOURNAL or DISCUSS:

Context Question: Take some time to review the above verses about endurance this week. Ask yourself a few questions to pray about as you are reading: ¹What does the Word teach us about endurance? ²When do we need to apply endurance? ³What happens to believers after they endure?

Application Question: Who is someone that you know that is going through a “stormy season” of life or in a crises of faith? What have you learned from Acts 27 and the above verses that could encourage them?