

# Paul's Shipwreck



**5+ lesson pack**

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# Introduction

Paul was on his way to Rome to stand trial when the ship he was sailing on wrecked. God was merciful and spared the lives of those aboard. We can read the story in Acts 27.

Key Points:

- God is merciful.
- God is in control.
- God will give us courage.

## Lesson Guide

Play a game where you give some advice to your children. If they would listen to the advice, they should stand up. They should sit down if they think it is bad advice. Be as silly as you want. For example, "It's hot outside. You'd better wear your hat and scarf."

Have you ever not taken advice and had something go wrong? Talk about a time that not taking advice was unwise.

Paul told the centurion who was traveling with him that they should not start sailing, or the ship would be wrecked, and many people would die. The centurion did not listen to Paul. They were on the boat when a massive storm started. Talk about big storms that you have experienced. Imagine if you were in a ship on the ocean when the storm came.

Even though the centurion disobeyed Paul's advice, God was merciful and spared every life on the ship. This was a big miracle.

Grab several toothpicks or small twigs. You may decorate if you wish with your child to create sailors. Also, select a boat, whether a toy, cup, or paper boat. Put the toothpick sailors into the boat. You may use a tub of water, a floor, or a large table to play the game. Push the sailors in the boat across the surface. Call out, "Shipwreck!" and toss the sailors onto the surface. Set a timer for a select amount of time, depending on the child's age. Allow them to scramble to pick up as many sailors as they can before time runs out. Whether your child succeeds or not, point out that they are picking up toothpicks in their house, and the sailors were in the middle of a stormy sea.

Mercy is not giving someone the punishment they deserve. Talk about a time you did something that deserved a punishment, but someone didn't give it to you. They showed mercy.

Paul had the courage and trusted God, even in the middle of the storm. Paul knew that nothing was outside of God's control.

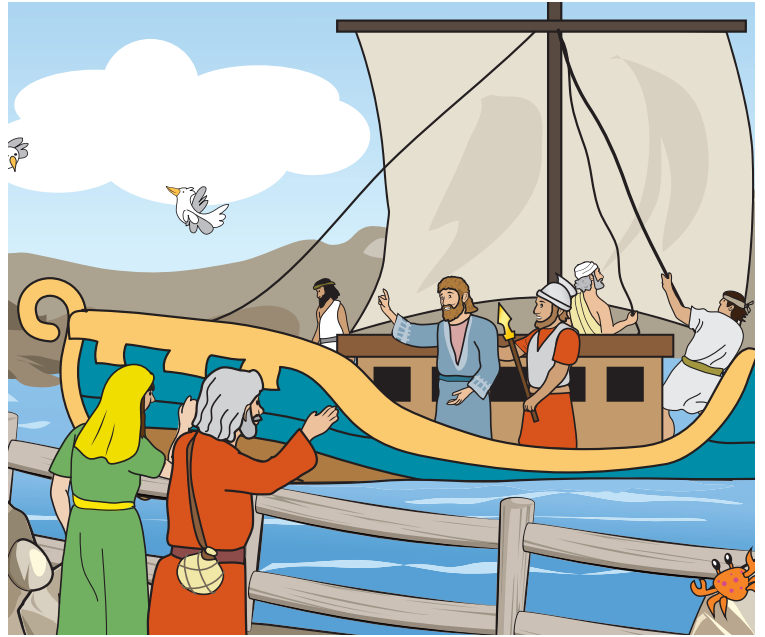
Play a game of control. Place several objects into various bowls on the counter—water, an egg, a cracker, a carrot, sugar, etc. Now, ask the child to pick up the objects and hold them in their fist without dropping any. As they hold each item, talk about which ones are easy to hold, which ones are harder, and which ones are impossible. Just like we can't hold everything in one fist, we can't control everything in our lives. Remind them that God can control everything. Nothing is outside of His ability to hold.

Talk about a time you planned to do something, but things got in the way. It could be a trip when your car broke. Or visiting a museum but you got sick and had to stay home. Share how a storm, shipwreck, and a poisonous snake couldn't stop God's plans for Paul. Even though we may experience not nice things in life, God is always in control.

# Paul's Shipwreck

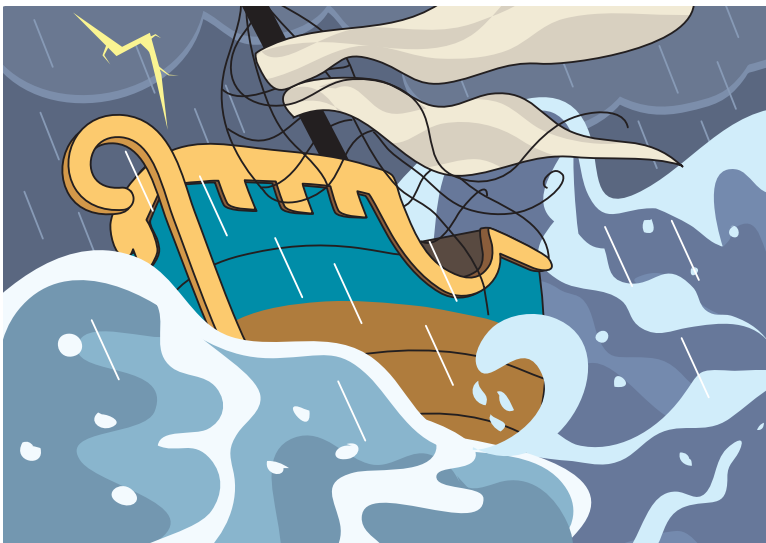
As a prisoner, Paul was to be taken to Rome. A centurion named Julius was given charge over Paul and other prisoners to take him safely to Rome. They all boarded a ship and set sail.

The voyage took a long time, and the season had changed. It would not be wise to continue the journey. Paul went to Julius and said, "If we continue on this journey, we will lose not only the ship and cargo, but our very lives."



Julius ignored Paul's warning and listened to the captain of the ship. They soon set sail. The journey was going smoothly, but then a strong and mighty storm came. They struggled to manage the boat, but the wind and waves were too strong. First, they cast the cargo into the sea and then the ship's tackle.

For days, they could see neither the sun nor the stars. All hope that they would survive and reach land again was lost. They did not even eat.



Paul stood among them and said, "Men, you should have heeded my warning and never set sail. Only take heart now. Although the ship will be lost, none of us will be lost. An angel told me that I must stand before Caesar and that the lives of everyone who sails with me will be saved. Take heart. I have faith everything will happen as I was told. Only we will run aground on an island."



On the fourteenth day, the sailors thought they must be close to land.

Paul encouraged everyone to eat as they had had no food in many days, “Not a hair on your head will be damaged.” They thanked God and ate as he said, and then threw the rest of the grain into the sea.

Daylight came and they could see a beach. They sailed toward it, but the ship’s bottom hit something underwater and stuck fast. The waves began to break the ship apart.

Julius commanded. “If you cannot swim, grab a plank or piece of the ship to help you.”

All those on the ship did as commanded and reached the shore unharmed. The people of the island welcomed the shipwrecked people and lit a fire so that they could warm themselves.

Paul went to gather wood to help feed the fire. As he went to put the wood into the flames, a poisonous snake slithered out of the wood and bit his hand! Paul shook the snake off. The people of the island thought Paul must be a horrible person who had escaped the sea only to die by a snake bite.



But Paul didn’t die. He remained whole and well.

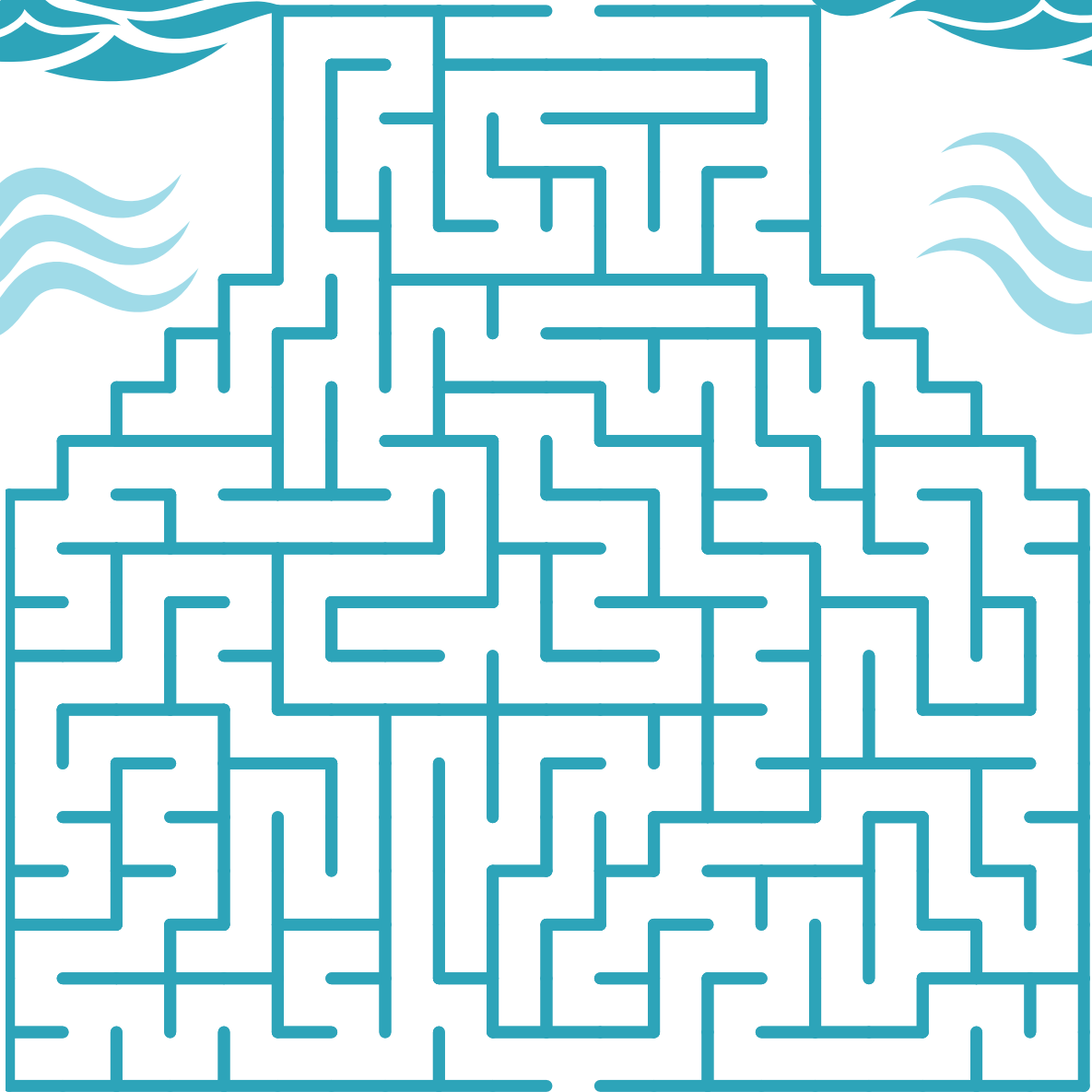
God had saved him from the sea and the snakebite.

# Shipwreck Survival

Which three things would you want if you were shipwrecked on a desert island?

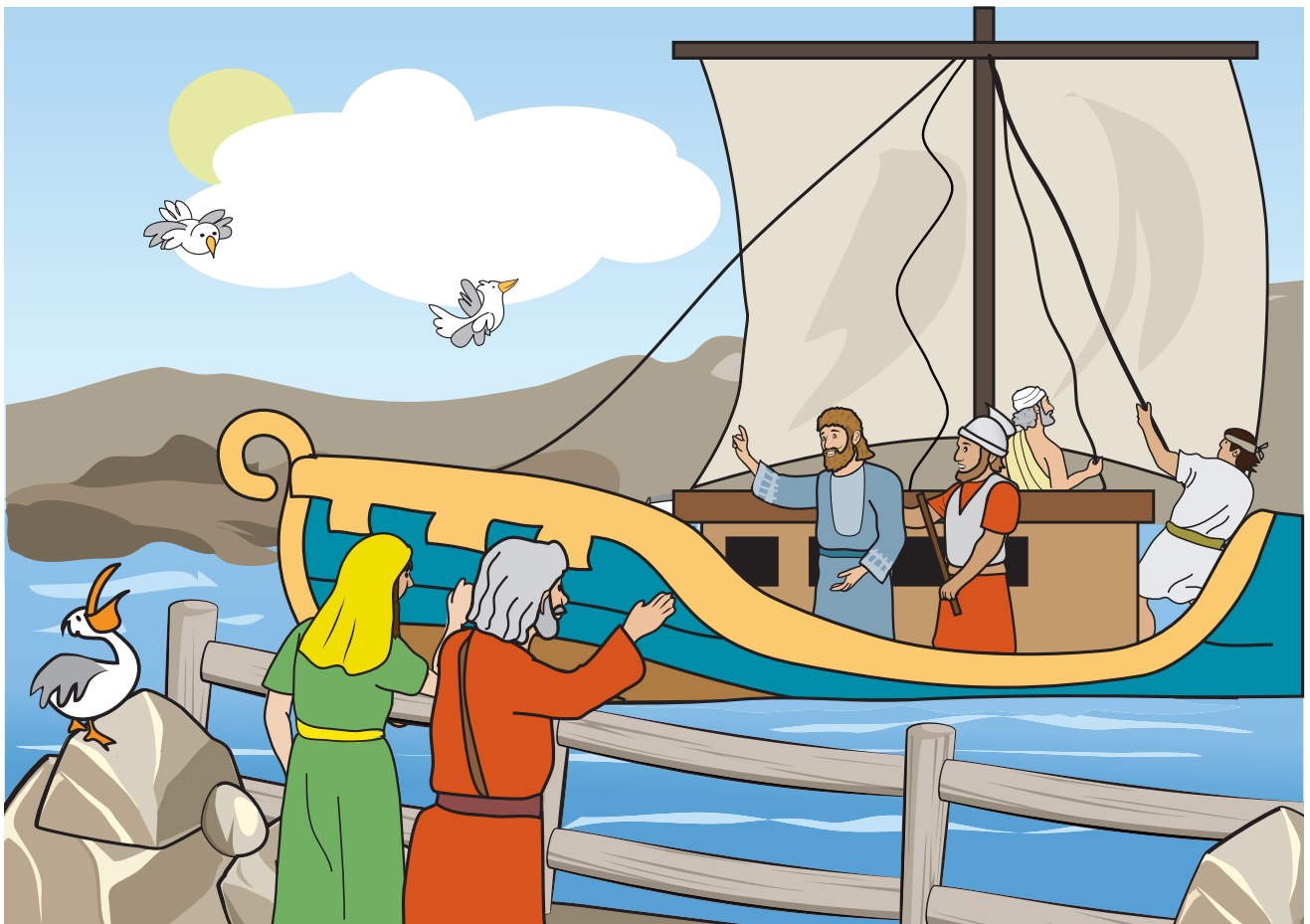
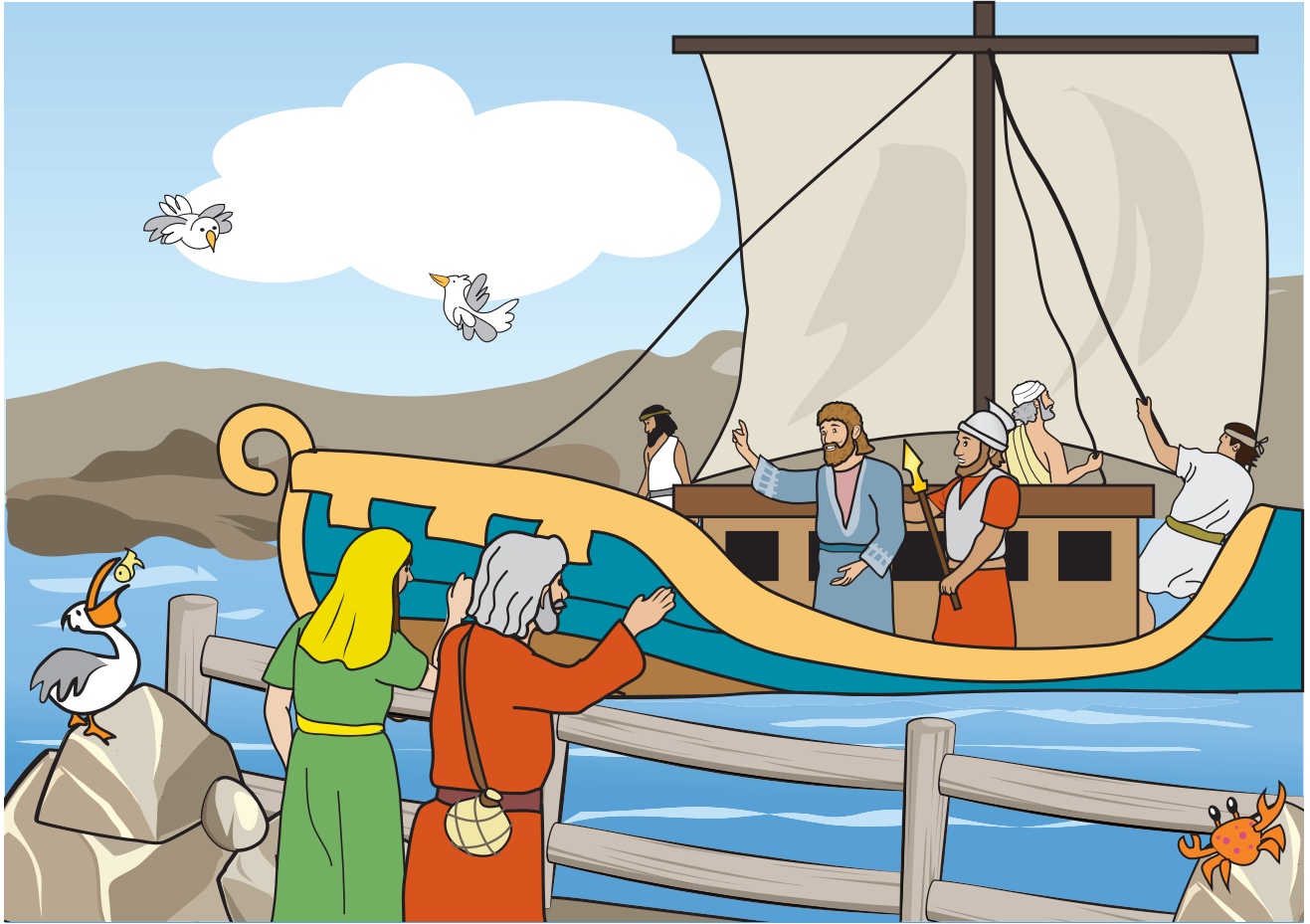


# Help Paul find his way to shore





# Find 10 differences



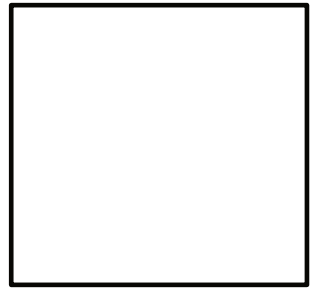
### How far does each child need to swim to reach the beach?



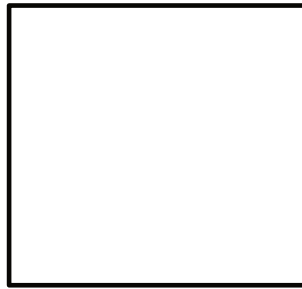




was put on a



to sail to

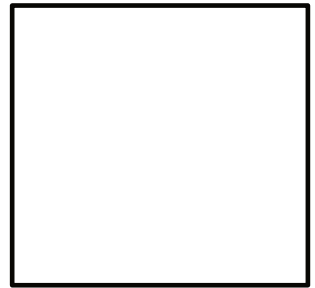


A

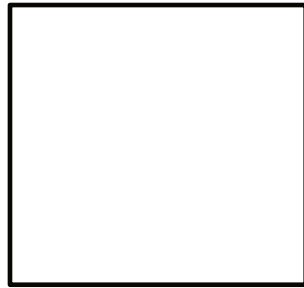


broke out at sea

On day 14 they saw an

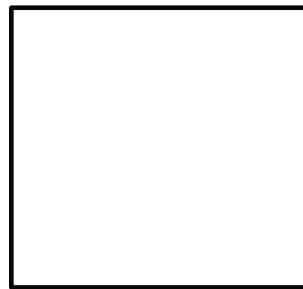


But the



began to sink

everyone had to



to land.

But God kept everyone safe.



# Games and Activities

## The Captain's Commands

The children must obey the captain's commands as he announces them, or they will be thrown "overboard" (leave the game.)

The captain will explain each one and practice them with the children until the game begins. For example:

**"Walk the plank"** – the kids walk one foot in front of the other

**"Yes Sir"** – The kids must salute the captain and say, "Yes Sir".

**"Clean the deck"** – The kids just kneel down.

**"Climb the rigging"** Pretend to climb up a rope.

**"Port"** or **"Starboard"** - run left or right



## JUMP THE WAVES

Children line up on one side of the space. Two players stand in the middle and make waves with a rope.

On the leader's signal, the players must try to jump the rope and move to the other side.

If the rope hits the player, they are out.



## Shark attack

Place some hoops on the floor to become islands. Choose one person to be a shark. The other players are swimmers.

When the music plays, children all swim around the room. When the music stops, children must safely go to an island without being tagged by a shark. If they are tagged, they are out.

Each time the music stops, one island is removed.



# Ship at Sea

## What you need:

Template page,

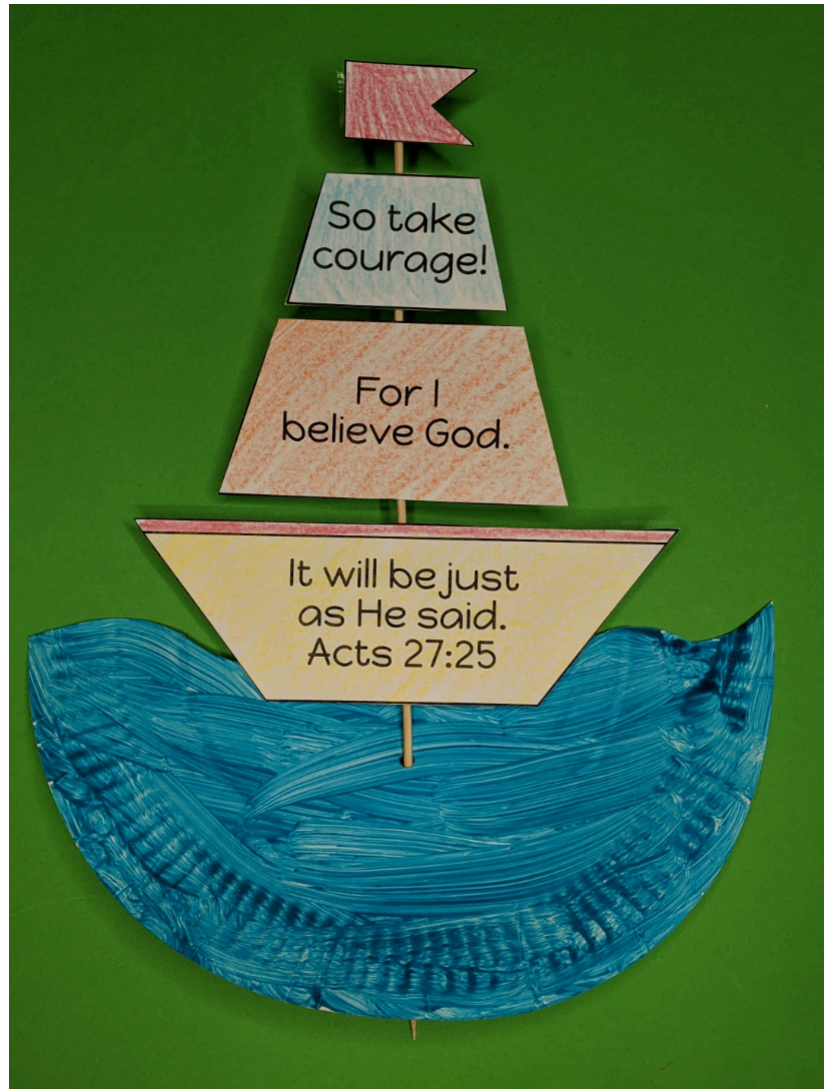
Crayons or paint,

Scissors,

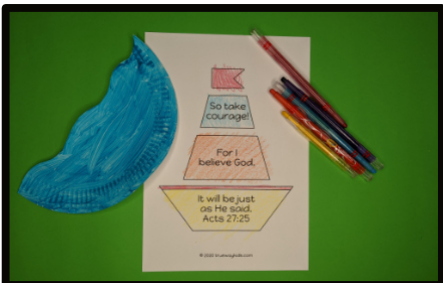
Half a Paper plate (cut in wave shape),

Wooden skewer (remove point),

Sticky Tape.



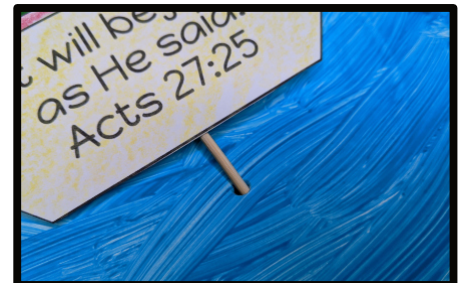
## What to do:



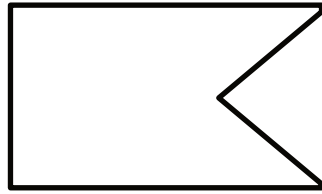
Colour the template page and a paper plate.



Cut out ship parts. Tape onto a wooden skewer.



Make a small hole in the paper plate and insert a skewer.

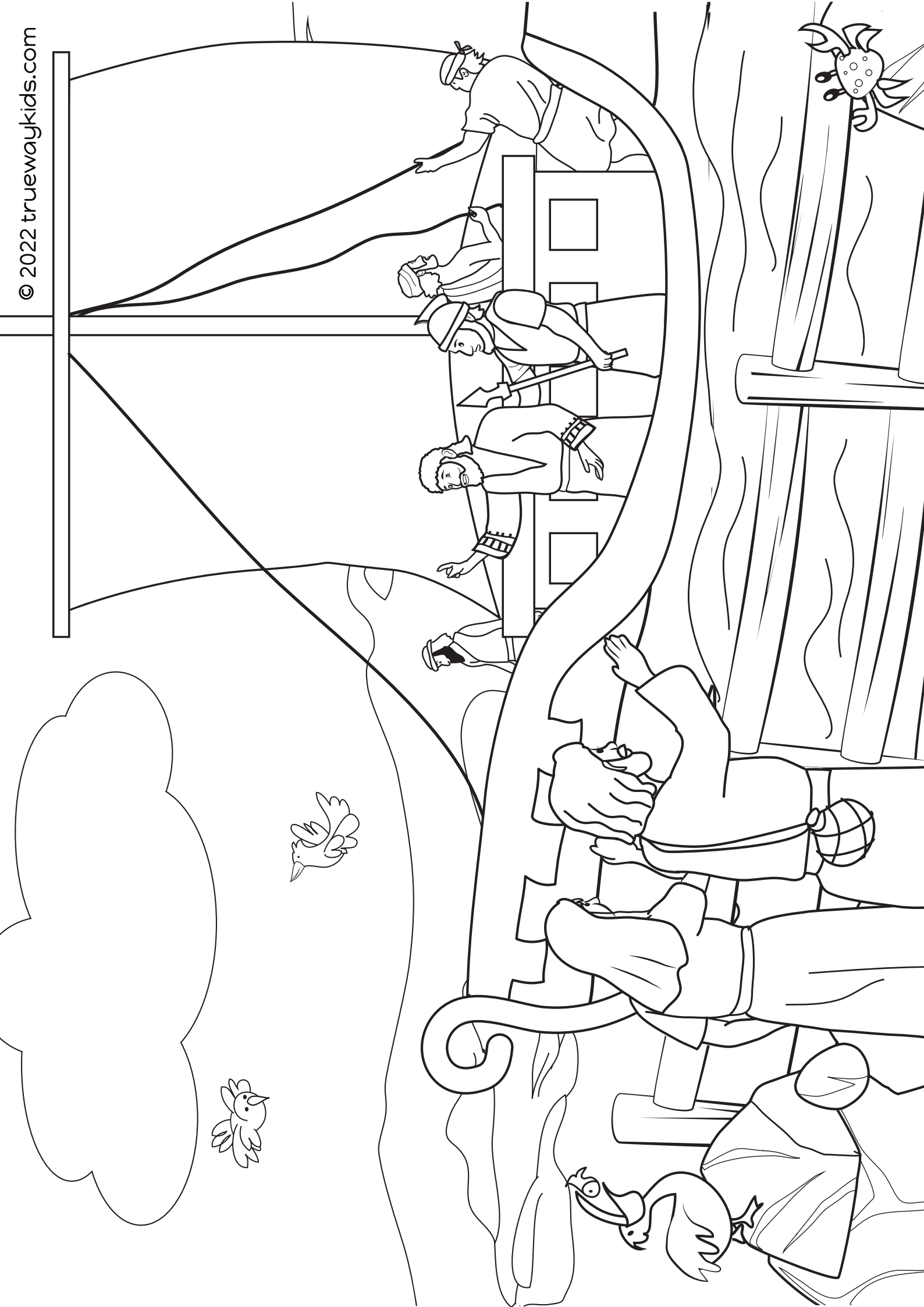


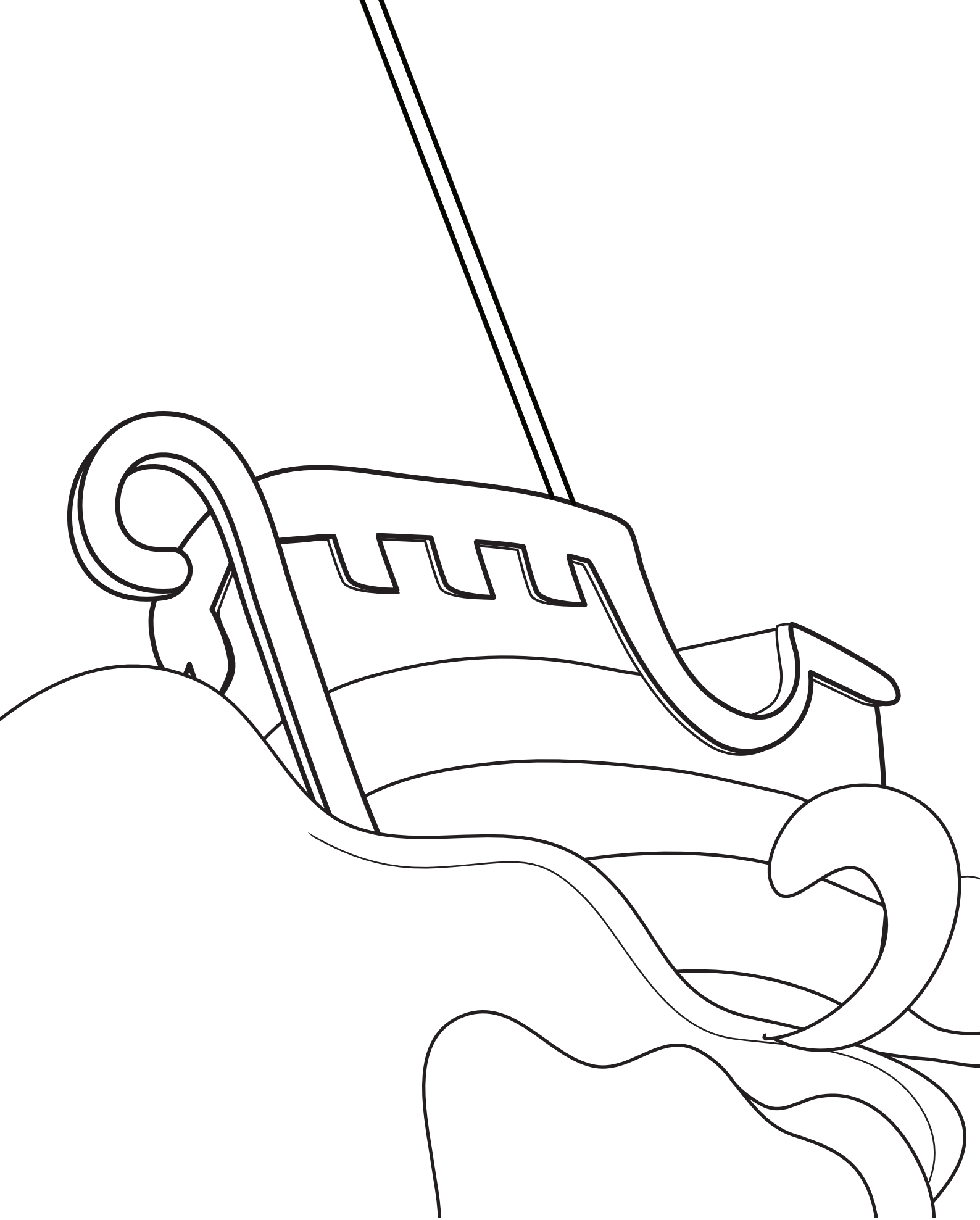
So take  
courage!

For I  
believe God.

It will be just  
as He said.  
Acts 27:25













# Worship Time

Recommend worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

God takes care of me

[https://youtu.be/ToY\\_gFoheEw](https://youtu.be/ToY_gFoheEw)

God is for Me

<https://youtu.be/ZmMFCMiT-ac>

ALWAYS WITH ME

<https://youtu.be/N3nUpMnEUWE>



## Prayer

Thank God that He is merciful, and nothing can stop His plans.

Ask Him to help you trust Him even in difficult times.

Next Week  
Timothy

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lesson by email.  
[truewaykids.com/subscribe/](https://truewaykids.com/subscribe/)

