

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 27:21-24, 30-44

Session Summary

True courage doesn't come from within, but from God. Paul was not dismayed because God had said, "Don't be afraid, Paul. It is necessary for you to appear before Caesar" (v. 24). Our faith should not be rooted in our circumstances or in what we see, but in what God has said. He tells us to fear not. He reminds us in His word that His promises will not fail; God's purposes will prevail. The storms of life do not have the final word. They may beat the boat and batter our faith, but in the midst of the whirlwind, the Lord says to remember His plan and promises. We can have courage as we take hold of His words.

Paul and all onboard the ship were saved because of God's promise, but God used a number of people to accomplish that promise. First and foremost, He used Paul's leadership and persuasion. He also used the efforts of the sailors, the authority and instructions of the centurion, and the obedience of soldiers and prisoners alike. Luke tells us that "in this way, everyone safely reached the shore" (v. 44). The bottom line is that God often fulfills His promises through human action.

- How can God's Word give us courage in fearful circumstances?
- What can we learn from the fact that God accomplished His promise through human action?
- What are some ways God could use us to accomplish His work?
- What does this story teach us about how each person's actions in a family affect all of us, and why it is important to understand that we succeed or fail together?

God promised that every person would survive the storm in Acts 27. Challenge each family member to find a promise in the Bible this week to research. At the end of the week, discuss how those promises motivate us toward faith and action.