

# ALLEY SG – May 23<sup>rd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** Paul Shipwrecked • Acts 27–28:10

**Conversation Starter:** How do you keep trusting God when bad things happen?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

## 1. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** “Don’t Give Up Challenge” Activity Page (one per kid), Pencils

**What You Do:**

- Explain that the goal for each puzzle is to connect the same color dots without crossing over any lines.
- Give kids several minutes to work on their puzzles.
- As they work, encourage them by saying things like, “That one is tough, but don’t give up!” or “What’s another way you could try that?”
- After a while, gather the group and talk about the experience. Ask: “How did it feel when you got to the harder puzzles? What made you want to give up? What helped you keep trying?”

**Say:** “It’s frustrating when you try and try and can’t seem to solve something. Life can feel like that sometimes. We face problems that seem impossible. Maybe a kid at school keeps picking on you, or your parents argue a lot. Maybe your best friend invites someone else to spend the night instead of you. Those are really hard things. But God is always right there, working behind the scenes. God has promised to make everything right in the end, even if we don’t get to see that right away. Paul’s story shows us that even in the middle of a literal shipwreck, God is still there and still working for good. We might not see the solution right away, but our job is to persevere and keep trusting Him.”

## 2. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Bibles, “Origami Boat Directions” Activity Page (a few per bin), Paper, Scissors

*During the Activity:*

- Give each kid a piece of paper.
- Have them cut their paper into a square.
- As a group, talk through the key moments of Paul’s shipwreck story:
  - The journey to Rome by ship
  - Paul’s warning to the ship’s crew about the journey being hard
  - The storm hitting and lasting for days
  - The angel’s promise to Paul
  - Paul trusting God in the storm

- The shipwreck on the island of Malta
- The snake bite and Paul's survival
- While you discuss the story, lead the kids step-by-step through the process of folding their paper into an origami boat.
- Encourage them to help each other as they follow the instructions.

**Say:** "You may never be shipwrecked or bitten by a deadly snake, but when you're disappointed or sad, it's still easy to feel like God is nowhere to be found. The truth is that God loves us deeply and is *always* with us, whether we feel like it or not. We can look back and see all the ways God has worked in the past and know He's still at work right now. So remember, **don't give up on God when bad things happen.**"

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Paul trusted God even when everyone else felt hopeless during the storm? What do you think helped him stay calm?
- What does this story show us about God's promises? How did God keep His promise to Paul?
- Paul thanked God and ate food while the storm was still happening. Why do you think gratitude is important even when life is hard?
- What are some "storms" kids your age might face today? (*School stress, friendships, family problems, fear, etc.*)
- What does "not giving up on God" actually look like in everyday life for a preteen? What are some practical examples?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

*Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** a soft ball

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Galatians 6:9
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

## AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- “God, thank You for being with us in the middle of storms. Please encourage the friends and family members who will get these prayer pins this week. Help them to feel Your presence and not to give up. And help us to be people who, like Paul, show others what it looks like to trust You, even when things are hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for 3 Alley Cash!

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids who they can turn to when bad things happen.