

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – March 22, 2020**

**Theme:** The Acts of the Apostles

**Topic:** Victory Over the Storm

**Main Text:** Acts 27:1 - 44

**Key verse:** Acts 27:22 – “And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship” (NKJV)

**INTRODUCTION:** A storm is an extreme weather condition with potential for great harm to life and property. Figuratively, a *storm* refers to a difficult and seemingly hopeless situation or experience. Our passage today recounts Paul’s experience on his sea voyage to Rome. On his return to Jerusalem from his third missionary journey, Paul had been arrested and detained on some trumped-up charges by the Jewish leaders (Acts 25:7,18-19). Fearing a possible miscarriage of justice, Paul appealed for his case to be heard by Caesar in Rome (Acts 25:11-12). And so, the journey to Rome started. From the very outset everything was against Paul and his 275 fellow-travellers - contrary winds, slow sailing, difficult passage. Most adult would have experienced one storm of life or another.

**1. (a) Let some participants briefly share a life’s storm they may have experienced and how it impacted them positively or otherwise (b) Why do you think God allowed Paul, who was on a God-approved trip to encounter such difficulties? (c). What lesson is there for us in this?**

Instead of their intended direct course to Italy, they were driven by violent winds to Crete where they docked at a small, quiet port called Fair Havens. Paul perceiving that the journey will end in disaster, counselled that they spend the winter at Crete. But his advice went unheeded and they left the shelter offered by the port of Fair Havens. They must have thought it okay to proceed when ‘a gentle southerly breeze came up, ... But they were no sooner out to sea than a gale-force wind, the infamous nor’easter, struck...’ (Acts 27:13-15 MSG). This hurricane, the Euroclydon, is said to have been much feared among ancient sailors because of its destructive power.

**2. (a) The danger of sailing at that time of the year was well known (Acts 27:9). Yet the captain and the ship owner insisted on proceeding. What do we think could have motivated them to take such risk? (b) Imagine your life gravely endangered by someone else’s ‘recklessness’. How would you feel, especially when you had cautioned against the action? (c) What can we learn from Paul’s reaction (Acts 27:21-25) after his advice was ignored, when compared with our typical reactions in similar situation?**

So, because of the presumptuous decisions of the captain and others, Paul and his companions found themselves in an out-of-control, storm-tossed ship. They did all they could to help their situation – they secured the lifeboat, passed ropes under the ship, threw the ship tackle overboard; even threw their cargo and supplies overboard! The sailors even attempted to abandon the ship while the soldiers contemplated executing the prisoners to keep them from escaping. Luke records that the situation was so dire that ‘we finally gave up all hope of being saved’ (Acts 27:20). Then God appears and instead of calming the storm, tells Paul that they will be shipwrecked but that they will not die!

**3. (a) The God who calmed the storm in Mark 4:35-41 could have quietened this one but chose not to. What does this teach us about God and His ways? (b) What can we learn from Paul about how to stay calm even when our hair is on fire? See Acts 27:25 (c) Faith without works is dead (James 2:26). How did Paul demonstrate his faith in God in this stormy experience? E.g. Acts 27:21-25, 30-31, 33-36. How can we apply these lessons individually and as a Church (VFC) in handling and or supporting those who may be passing through a storm of life?**

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*Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to remember that when I pass through any storm of life, you are with me.*