



**Educate
+ Engage**



THE GIFT NO
ONE WANTS: ~~TH~~

Shipwrecked

OVERVIEW

Paul often faced pain points—times and even seasons of life that were extremely difficult. However, even in the midst of pain, whether being blinded, shipwrecked, or even jailed, God used it to get glory out of his story. Though pain is the gift nobody wants, God is with us through it and uses it for a purpose.

Scripture Passage

II Corinthians 4:8–9 (NKJV)

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

EDUCATE

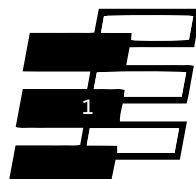
Point 1: God's presence is with us.

Despite the physical and emotional turmoil of being shipwrecked, Paul recognized and felt God's presence. In Acts 27:23–24, Paul shared how an angel of God stood by him during the night and assured him of their safety. This teaches us that even in our darkest and most chaotic moments, God is with us, providing comfort and guidance.

When facing personal “shipwrecks” like a divorce or the death of a loved one, remember that God is present with you. Lean on your faith and seek comfort in prayer and Scripture, trusting that God is walking with you through your pain.

Here are the cold hard facts: the uniting factor that connects everyone in this world is pain. We all will go through it. The question is, how will you handle it? Will you allow it to grow you like Paul did, or will you allow it to push you away from your faith in God?

Here are some Bible verses to recite when you are going through “shipwreck” moments in your life:



Lesson 3

- Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
- Romans 8:38–39: "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Romans 8:31: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

These verses can encourage you through the dark and cold nights of being shipwrecked. Take a play out of Jesus' playbook. When the Devil came to tempt Him and try to trip Him up, Jesus fought back with the Word of God. We need to remind the enemy when he tries to convince us to give up (because it may feel like even God has forsaken us): "it is written."

Say it out loud when you feel like giving up: it is written! And remember Romans 8:31. God is here, and He is going nowhere. He is in the middle of your shipwreck. He is in the middle of your pain, walking hand in hand with you.

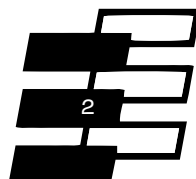
Discussion Question: How do the examples of Paul in Acts 27:23–24 and the verses provided (e.g., Psalm 46:1) illustrate the concept of God's presence during personal crises? Can you share a personal experience where you felt God's presence in a difficult time?

Point 2: There is hope.

During the shipwreck, Paul encouraged those on board, urging them to keep their hope alive despite the dire circumstances (Acts 27:22–25). His faith and positive outlook provided much-needed encouragement to those around him.

In times of personal crisis, find ways to hold onto hope and encourage yourself and others. Draw strength from your faith, supportive friends, and family. Sharing your struggles and leaning on others can bring mutual encouragement and help you navigate through the pain.

Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."



Lesson 3

When God is in the picture, we always have hope.

Psalm 23:4 tells us, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me."

God is with us through the darkest of trails and worse pains. When we are losing hope, we need to cast more of our burdens and worries on God. He can handle it. He is the Creator of the whole world. The Bible explains that this world is His footstool. I know we view our problems as mountains, but God views them as footstool problems. Our problems are small in His eyes.

Yes, you might be going through the worst shipwreck in your life, but just like Paul didn't allow it to steal his hope, don't allow it to separate and push you away from God. Use it to gain more hope in God. He is teaching us to have more hope in Him through this shipwreck of a situation.

Discussion Question: What strategies did Paul use to maintain hope and encourage others during the shipwreck (Acts 27:22–25)? How can we apply these strategies in our own lives when facing significant challenges?

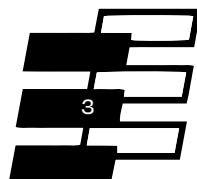
Point 3: Grow through the pain.

"No pain, no gain." This common workout phrase holds a powerful truth that we can apply to our lives.

Nature teaches us this lesson. Consider tall trees: without the challenges posed by wind, they would never develop deep and strong roots, essential for their growth.

Similarly, in life, pain is a crucial teacher. Without it, we miss out on valuable lessons. The apostle Paul's life is a testament to this. His numerous trials, including shipwrecks and other sufferings, were transformative, deepening his faith and resilience. Paul saw his hardships as opportunities for growth and for God's strength to be perfected in his weakness (II Corinthians 12:9–10).

Personal tragedies, though painful, can lead to significant personal and spiritual growth. Embrace the healing process and allow yourself to be vulnerable, trusting that God can bring about growth and strength through your suffering. These experiences can deepen your reliance on God.



Let's strive to be a giant of faith, like Paul who grew stronger through his willingness to endure and learn from pain. When we are weak, God is strong!

Discussion Question: This lesson has emphasized the importance of reciting Scripture during times of hardship. Which of the provided Bible verses (e.g., Romans 8:31) resonates most with you during challenging times, and why? How can reciting Scripture strengthen your faith and provide comfort?

Closing

When we face life's "shipwrecks"—whether it be a divorce, the death of a loved one, or any profound personal crisis—we can draw upon the lessons from Paul's experience with his thorn in the flesh. These moments of intense pain and suffering can become transformative, leading us to a deeper relationship with God.

ENGAGE

Don't let the shipwrecks of this present life draw you away from God, but allow it to draw you closer to Him.

Discussion Question: The lesson mentioned that personal tragedies can lead to growth, deepening our empathy and reliance on God's grace. Can you think of a situation where a painful experience led to personal or spiritual growth? How did this experience change your perspective?

Discussion Question: In II Corinthians 4:8–9, Paul talked about being "hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed." How does faith play a role in helping us navigate through life's adversities without being crushed by them?

