

Strong Tower Bible Study

Agenda

Lesson #30

Time 6:00pm -7:30pm

Topic: Hope is a Choice

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture text: Acts 27:13-26

The Storm

¹³ When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. ¹⁴ Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. ¹⁵ The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶ As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, ¹⁷ so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor^[b] and let the ship be driven along. ¹⁸ We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹ On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹ After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from

Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²² But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. ²³ Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”

Things to know:

- Paul faced both personal and public storms
- We are encouraged to encourage others who are in the storm with us
- We are not to allow our discouragement to overshadow God’s promises for us
- God is sovereign over our storms
- We can trust God to act on our behalf for our ultimate good

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever encountered a familiar life storm and underestimated its strength? Vs 13-18
2. Did you allow discouragement and disappointment to settle in? If yes, how did you manage the difficulty? Vs 19-20
3. What did you learn in the storm? Were you in it by yourself?
4. Why was the Apostle Paul able to encourage the men on the boat? Vs 21-25

5. What did Paul know that the others around him did not?
6. Is there a favorite scripture, song or prayer that encourages you? *Please share.*

Faith in Action:

Spend 15 minutes in silence before the Lord

Invite someone you love to Bible Study

Go to be one hour early

Refrain from repeating the same sorrow, Pray, Trust, Let go!

Challenge of the Week:

Share your favorite scripture or song with a young person to encourage them. (find 7 young people)

Or

Read a scripture before making your first phone call of the day

Scripture Application

Exodus 15:2-Why are we encouraged to Praise the Lord in the midst of battle?

Isaiah 41:10-How does this scripture bring encouragement to you? Share it

Psalms 46:1-Do you really believe this scripture? Why worry.

Lamentations 3:22-23-Take time to worship God for His faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

