

## DISCUSSION STARTER

How do you respond when life takes an unexpected turn? Do you remain optimistic in uncertain times, or do you become cynical and negative?

## BIBLE STUDY

1. **READ ACTS 27:1-12.** Why was Paul shown such kindness by Julius in vs 3?
2. Explain Paul's warning in vs 10. How did he discern the coming disaster?
3. How was the decision to travel on to Phoenix made (vs 12)? Is this generally a good way to make crucial decisions? Why, or why not?
4. **READ ACTS 27:13-20.** How did the crew respond to the violent storms? What did they do to try and save themselves (vs 18-19)? What long-term impact did this have on their voyage?
5. Explain the mood Luke describes in vs 20. What does it mean to 'abandon all hope'?
6. **READ ACTS 27:21-26.** What is the source of Paul's great optimism and hope (vs 23-24)? What assurances does he give the crew (vs 22 & 25)?
7. **READ ACTS 27:27-38.** Why were the sailors planning to escape (vs 30), and why was the salvation of the whole ship dependent on them staying on board (vs 31)?
8. Why had the crew not eaten in 14 days if food was apparently available to them?
9. What does vs 35 remind you of? Is this imagery intentional or coincidental?
10. **READ ACTS 27:39-44.** Why did the soldiers plan to kill the prisoners (vs 42)?
11. How did God save those who couldn't swim to shore? (vs 41 & 44)
12. What are some of the promises of God you hold to in uncertain times? See the following:  
*Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 31:8; John 16:33; Psalm 37:23-24; Exodus 14:14; Romans 8:28*

## PRAYER

*Lord, help us to be the kind of people who bring hope to the hopeless in dark and uncertain times.*