

Sermon Discussion Questions
The Church Jesus is Building: Week 11
Acts 27

*Here are some questions to discuss as you think about the message from **Acts 27**.*

1. What is the worst literal, weather-related storm you've experienced? How did you feel during the middle of it?
2. Why is Paul on a ship heading for Rome?
3. What stands out to you about the way that Paul acts on the ship? How do the others on the ship respond to him?
4. How specifically does Paul demonstrate and communicate his faith?
5. How would you describe your current "storm"? What are some of the challenges you are facing? Who are you really trusting? Your current systems, structures, and routines? Probability and statistics? God's grace?
6. Paul encourages all on the ship, "So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island." Think about the reality of the pain in your current and future circumstances. What can you learn and apply from Paul's example? Where does Paul get his strength and perspective?
7. Read James 1:2-18, which gives us a guide on how to grow in our faith during our storms.
 - How can James say, "Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds"? Does that mean we're not allowed to express feelings of sadness and worry?
 - What does the process of "considering" look like for you? How have you had to change the way you see your circumstances and change the way you see God?
 - Think about the *process* James describes. What are some of the key parts? Where does prayer fit here? Where do other people fit? Why is this more than a just "try harder" and "stop feeling sorry for yourself" approach?
 - How do you help someone going through a trial? What is most helpful? What is NOT helpful?

If you'd like to go deeper, read Psalm 34. Ask the Lord to remind you of his goodness in the midst of whatever storm you are facing.

Lord, forgive me for being slow to praise you in the storm. Forgive me for seeing your goodness through the lens of my circumstances and failing to find joy in my pain and uncertainty. Deliver from me from my fears. Deliver me from trusting in my own ability and my own understanding. Holy Spirit, remind me that through Jesus' sacrifice for me I can come to you, Father, as your child!