SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 27

I Believe God

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 27:25

"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 27

This week you are on a ship with Paul — a prisoner who was ignored, then caught in a storm that took everything but his faith in God's word. Whatever storm you are in, the God who stood by Paul stands by you, and He has not lost track of one soul on board.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Warning Nobody Heeded

READ · ACTS 27:1–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Paul warn would happen if they sailed on, and whose advice did the centurion follow instead (27:10–12)?

REFLECT

The centurion "was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul" (27:11). Whose voice do you tend to trust over God's — an expert, the crowd, your own gut?

REFLECT

Julius "treated Paul with consideration and allowed him to go to his friends and receive care" (27:3). Who has shown you kindness when you didn't deserve it, and how did it help you keep going?

RESPOND — TODAY

Before you make one decision today, stop and ask, "Has God already said something about this?" — then do what He said.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 27:25)

DAY 2 OF 5

When Hope Runs Out

READ · ACTS 27:13–20

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the crew throw overboard, day by day, and what finally happened to their hope (27:18–20)?

REFLECT

They sailed when "a moderate south wind came up, supposing that they had attained their purpose" (27:13). When has an easy start fooled you into thinking God was blessing a choice you had already made?

REFLECT

"All hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned" (27:20). What has the storm in your life taken from you, piece by piece, and where is your hope today?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the one thing you are most afraid of losing right now, and pray over it honestly — tell God how you really feel.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 27:25)

DAY 3 OF 5

I Believe God

READ · ACTS 27:21–26

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the angel tell Paul, and what did Paul tell the men after that (27:23–25)?

REFLECT

Paul called Him "the God to whom I belong and whom I serve" (27:23). What difference does it make to you that you belong to God before you ever do anything for Him?

REFLECT

Paul said, "I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told" (27:25) while the storm was still raging. Which promise of God are you being asked to believe before you see it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Say this week's memory verse out loud three times today, once in front of another person.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 27:25)

DAY 4 OF 5

Stay in the Ship

READ · ACTS 27:27–38

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What were the sailors trying to do in the dark, and what did Paul say would happen if they left (27:30–31)?

REFLECT

God had promised every life (27:24), yet Paul said, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved" (27:31). Where are you tempted to jump into the lifeboat — skip church, the group, your sponsor, the Word — because things got hard?

REFLECT

Paul "took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all" (27:35) before anything had changed. What can you thank God for today, right in the middle of your trouble?

RESPOND — TODAY

Give thanks out loud before your next meal, even if others are watching, and ask God to make you a steady man for the people around you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 27:25)

DAY 5 OF 5

All Brought Safely to Land

READ · ACTS 27:39–44

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did the people get to shore, and what did the centurion do to protect Paul and the prisoners (27:42–44)?

REFLECT

The ship was broken to pieces, but "they all were brought safely to land" (27:44). What have you lost that God may not have promised to keep — and who has He kept?

REFLECT

The centurion spared all the prisoners because he wanted "to bring Paul safely through" (27:43). Who in your life might be helped or spared because you are walking with God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Call or write one man who is in a storm right now and tell him one promise from this chapter.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 27:25)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul was a prisoner, yet he became the leader everyone listened to (27:21, 31, 35). What does that tell us about how God can use a man the world has written off — including men in this room?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

The storm took the cargo, the tackle and the ship, but not one life (27:18–19, 22, 44). How do we tell the difference between what God promises to protect and what He may let us lose?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Some swam and some held on to planks and broken pieces of the ship (27:43–44). How can we help a brother who is barely hanging on to get to shore?

MY PRAYER

Lord, I belong to You and I want to serve You, and in the middle of this storm I choose to believe that...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 27:25

"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told."