

*Biblical Drama based on Acts 27:18-44**Character Parts: Narrators 1-5, Sailor, Julius, Captain, Paul, Traveler, Islander*

Narrator 1: Wherever he went, the Apostle Paul boldly told people about Jesus. But some people did not want to hear Paul's message, so they had him arrested.

Narrator 2: Because Paul asked to have the Emperor hear his case, he was taken aboard a ship headed for Rome. With him was a Roman centurion named Julius.

Sailor: Who are you? And who is this man in chains?

Julius: I am a Roman soldier, and this man, Paul, is my prisoner. I'm taking him to Rome to answer to the Emperor.

Sailor: The Emperor? What terrible thing did he do?

Julius: Paul was arrested because he refused to stop teaching and preaching about Jesus of Nazareth. Paul says this Jesus is Lord of all.

Captain: (*approaching*) Enough of this talk! I am the Captain, and it's time to get sailing! We'll never reach Rome if my sailors keep talking to the passengers. All aboard!

Paul: Excuse me, sir, I don't think we should be traveling by sea. There are lots of storms at this time of year.

Captain: Ha! A prisoner is trying to tell an experienced sailor like myself when we can and cannot travel! That's hilarious!

Narrator 3: So the ship set sail. At first, the weather was good and the breezes gentle. But then, things quickly changed.

Sailor: Look! The sky is getting awfully dark. And the wind has started blowing cold and strong. Batten down the hatches, mates!

Captain: Secure the ship! Secure the ship!

Traveler: I'm not feeling well ... I have to sit down ... I think I need a bucket!

Julius: Oh, it's just a little squall. Things like this happen all the time!

Captain: We just need to throw out the cargo! If we lighten the ship, we'll be able to stay afloat!

Narrator 3: The sailors threw the cargo overboard, which seemed to help. But the storm went on and on, for many days and nights.

Traveler: I'm so weak ... feeling awful ... I'm afraid we're all going to die!

Paul: Take heart, men. God has told me that we'll all survive, even though we'll lose the ship. Don't worry. Soon, we will run aground on an island.

Captain: Island? What are you talking about? I know every dot of land out here, and I'm telling you, there's nothing here but water — and more water!

Paul: Here everyone, I found some bread in the cupboard. Take some, and eat. You're going to need strength. (*Praying.*) Thank you, Lord, for providing for us.

Captain: (*pointing far off*) Land ho!

Sailor: Watch out, men! We're going to hit that reef! Make ready! (*Crashing sounds.*)

Captain: We'll have to swim for it. Let's kill these prisoners, then find our way ashore.

Julius: After all Paul has said and done for us? He was the one who warned us! No, we will keep him and all the prisoners alive! We can jump overboard and swim to shore together.

Narrator 5: So they did. By floating on planks from the ship, everyone made it to the island safely.

Islander: Well, well. What have we here? Some very wet fellows! Come, warm yourselves by our fire and have something to eat. How did you ever survive that storm?

Julius: Not by our doing, that's for sure! It could only have been the work of God himself. Ask this man, Paul; he'll tell you all about it!