

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



How to Navigate a Crisis

March 21 & 22, 2020

Crisis often comes on suddenly, without warning or preparation. Sometimes storms are like that, too. They seem to appear out of nowhere and they come hard and fast. That's certainly true of the storm we're in right now, isn't it? Just one month ago we could never have imagined that our church, along with restaurants and theaters and gyms would be closed. But here we are.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: ACTS 27: 13-44

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

We're going to learn some important lessons from a storm story out of the bible in Acts 27. It's a story about St. Paul on his way to trial in Rome. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer and loaded onto a ship. For a while, they experienced smooth sailing. But all of that changed in a hurry. Take note of how Paul navigates the storm and how the sailors navigate it.

Let's start with the sailors. Of all the people on that ship, they are the ones who should know how to navigate a storm. And yet, they make some common mistakes that we often make when navigating the storms of life. **First, they drifted along.** Because the sailors couldn't head into the wind, they allowed the wind to drive them and simply drift. The sailors drifted, and when the storm intensified further, they made a second mistake - **they despaired.** They gave up hope.

Except we're not sailors. We're followers of Jesus. And so was Paul, which is why he reacted so differently. Paul was calm and confident. He had courage and hope. Paul was anchored to two things in particular. First, **Paul was anchored to God's presence.** No matter how hard the wind blew, Paul knew God was there. Second, **Paul was anchored in God's peace.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What's the worst storm you've ever been in? How did you feel? What happened?
- How do you tend to respond to the storms of life? Do you tend to drift and despair?
- What are you finding most challenging about the storm we're in today?
- How can be more anchored in God's presence and peace? What habits can you establish this week to be more deeply anchored?

APPLICATION: This week, consider who you know that's drifting or despairing in this current storm. How can you be an anchor for them? Make a plan and do it.