

# JULY 2020 • WEEK FOUR

## PRETEEN PARENT GUIDE

### BIBLE STORY

Paul Shipwrecked  
*Acts 27:1—28:10*

### MEMORY VERSE

*God's grace has  
saved you because  
of your faith in Christ.  
Your salvation  
doesn't come from  
anything you do. It is  
God's gift.  
Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)*

### LIFE APP

Faith  
Trusting in what you  
can't see because of  
what you can see

### KEY QUESTION

When has something  
good come out of  
something bad?

### BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no  
matter what.

## ACTIVITY: RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Water bottle (or clear glass half-filled with water), white paper, marker or pen

**WHAT YOU DO:** Tear the sheet of paper in half. On one of those halves, ask your kid to draw an arrow pointing left. On the other, ask your kid to draw an arrow pointing right.

Have your kid sit on one side of the bottle of water. Then, hold the arrow right behind the bottle, moving it from one side to the other and back again. (As you move the sheet of paper behind the water, the arrow will appear to be pointing the other direction. You may have to tell your kid to move around slightly until the angle is just right.)

Do the same thing with the other sheet of paper that has the arrow pointing the opposite direction.

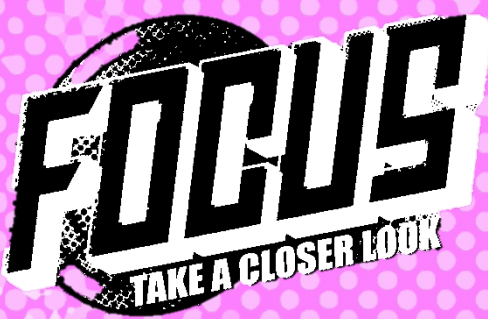
Take turns being the one who watches and the one who moves the arrow.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

Do you know what's happening? It's called refraction, and it happens because light bends when it passes through things like water or plastic. Think about the arrows. Things aren't always what they seem. Changing your perspective—or the way you look at something—can change your feelings and opinions about it.

We often have to remember to change our perspective on things we think we know, and that was certainly true of Paul in our story today. He believed that God would bring something good from even his most difficult situation. He could have become discouraged but instead he chose to have faith that God was with him. He knew that God's plan, even when it was hard, was the best plan for his life. Through it all, God used Paul's life to help bring other people to Jesus.

**[Make It Personal]** Tell kids about a time when knowing Jesus changed your perspective on something difficult in your life. Make sure you point out that it didn't take away the pain all together, but that it just gave you a different viewpoint, hope, and perspective.



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### GOSPEL MOMENT

We all have problems. Paul certainly did! When all of those difficult things kept happening to Paul, how was he able to keep going? Well, he knew that God was with him. He was determined to continue to do what God had called him to do: share the good news about Jesus. Because Paul trusted God, he could face his problems without being worried.

Having faith in God doesn't mean we won't get upset, angry, hurt, or left out. Following Jesus doesn't mean we won't have problems. But when we have hard times, we can know that God keeps His promises. And if God promises to take care of us, He will even when it doesn't feel like He is in the moment. When we know Jesus, it changes the way we see our problems.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When have you seen something good come out of something bad?
2. How can knowing Jesus change your perspective on, or how you feel about something in your life?

### PRAYER

God, Paul had so many problems and yet he still had faith in You. Help us to be like Paul. Help us to see our problems differently. When we're sad, or hurt, or our problems seem really big, remind us to talk to You about them. We ask You to help us through them and we have faith that You will answer our prayers. Amen.