



## 36

## Malta

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

**Breathe**

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

**Tell and Wonder**

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Malta" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

**Pray**

*Close in prayer, thanking God for keeping Paul safe, for the kindness the people on the island showed Paul, and that Paul was able to share the good news of Jesus with them. Thank God for the good news of Jesus*

and all the ways we get to hear and celebrate it every day.

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #163\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.

\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).

## Easy Extra

Find Malta on a map. (You should be able to view it by typing "Malta" into any maps program online. You also may want to search for the statue of Paul that's located there and show it to the children.) Show the children where Rome is and how close Malta is to Italy where Rome was located. Reflect as a group on how amazing it is that God saved the ship by steering it there. Ask: **Would the people on the island have heard the good news of Jesus if Paul's ship hadn't crashed?**

Share a story with your group of a time when God brought good from a difficult situation in your life. Ask the children if any of them have a story to share when God turned something difficult into a good situation. Pause after each story to say a quick prayer, thanking God for watching over us and caring for us.

## Story: Malta [Acts 28:1-10](#)

If you are doing the sessions in order, have your group recall last week's story before starting today's story and skip the first paragraph of the story below.

Once again Paul was a prisoner for telling people about Jesus. He was on a great journey, traveling to Rome, but on the way bad weather caused his ship to wreck. Everyone swam to safety, arriving at an island called Malta. Here's how Luke, the author of Acts, begins our story in the Bible:

Read [Acts 28:1-2](#).

Paul shivered as he watched his cold, wet friends from the ship climb out of the water and shake themselves off like wet puppies. There they stood, watching the big pieces of their ship toss in the waves and slowly sink out of sight. Two hundred and seventy-six wet, shivering people—every one thankful to be alive.

Paul was especially happy. **Do you know why?** (Pause for responses.) Paul still had much work to do for Jesus! Many people still needed to hear the good news. Paul wasn't worried about his safety. Jesus had promised Paul he would share the good news of Jesus with the people in Rome. Paul was sure that Jesus would take care of him all the way to Rome, that big city so full of people to talk to.

But Paul knew there were people right here on this little island, people who needed to hear the good news. Before Paul's wet clothes had time to dry, some strangers from the island came toward Paul and the others from the ship. "Hello!" they called. "You look like you could use some help!" And the kind strangers gathered wood for a fire—and before long, the flames were crackling. The fire felt warm and wonderful!

Paul helped gather more wood for the fire. But as he threw a pile of sticks on the blaze, a poisonous snake slithered out of it and bit Paul's hand! The snake wouldn't let go! The people who stood around the fire were terrified. They were sure Paul would get sick and maybe even die from the snake's bite.

There was just one person around that fire who wasn't afraid, and **I'm sure you can tell me who it was.** *(Pause for responses.)* Paul just shook that scary snake off into the fire and it disappeared with a sizzle. No one who sat around the fire said a word. They all waited to see what would happen to Paul, but nothing did—he was fine! Jesus had kept Paul safe. **What do you think the people thought when Paul didn't get sick?** *(Pause for responses.)*

The chief of the island invited Paul to his home—and he made sure Paul was warm and dry and had plenty to eat. When Paul learned that the chief's father was very sick, Paul visited the old man and asked Jesus to make him well again.

When the people of the island heard the good news and learned that Jesus has the power to make people well, they brought their sick friends to Paul for healing. What amazing power! "What great power you have, Paul!" they said as they watched Paul lay his hands on their sick friends and heal them. But Paul just shook his head no and smiled. "It is the power of Jesus who makes us well!" he said.

**I wonder if Paul and his friends stayed on that island forever.** *(Pause for responses.)* **Do you think Paul made it safely to Rome?** *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, Jesus kept his promise. Before long a new ship came to the island to get Paul and his friends. And the new ship carried them safely all the way to Rome.

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Jesus Helps Paul in Malta](#)
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