

ACTS DEVOTIONAL CHAPTER 27 HOPE

"When circumstances seem impossible, when all signs of grace in you seem at their lowest ebb, when temptation is fiercest, when love and joy and hope seem well-nigh extinguished in your heart, then rest without feeling and without emotion, in the Father's faithfulness." D. Tryon

SCRIPTURE: "When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved... But an angel stood beside Paul and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul, you must stand before Caesar'... not one of you will be lost." Acts 27:20, 23–24. 22

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

ACTIVITY: Like Paul, we may be in the middle of turmoil (sometimes because of foolish decisions made by others). Our emotions become churning waves of resentment and fear for the future. Life seems dark as the storm rages on and on. The only secure place to put our hope is in the character of God. (See Psalm 33:18–22 and Psalm 130:5) Say one of these breath prayers throughout today: "My hope is in You." or "I hope in Your unfailing love."

PRAYER:

Powerless,
helpless, and
on the edge of
hopeless, I place
my hope in You,
Lord. I will be
safe in Your
loving hands.

*"If you have been reduced to God being your only hope, you are in a good place."
Jim Laffoon*

SCRIPTURE: "Paul said, 'Keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God... take some food... not one of you will lose a single hair from his head'... They were all encouraged and ate food themselves." Acts 27:25, 34–36

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."
Psalm 31:24

ACTIVITY: Paul had a reputation for speaking encouraging words to others. (See Acts 20:1, 2) Notice that he did not scold or lecture the sailors; instead he gave them good news about a God who cared about their futures. Paul's confidence in the promises of God overflowed onto his fearful companions, encouraging them to believe. Look at these promises, chose to believe them, and share them with someone who needs hope today. (See Psalm 91:1, 2, 14–16; Psalm 50:15; Psalm 37:39–40)

PRAYER:

(from Paul's prayer
in Romans 15:13)
God of hope, fill us
with all joy and
peace as we trust in
You, so that we may
overflow with hope
by the power of the
Holy Spirit.