

REACHING THE GOAL

The shipwreck survivors shivered on the beach. They were wet, cold and shocked. Paul knew that they all needed a fire. Some of the islanders had already come to help. They worked with Paul to gather dry sticks and get a good fire going.

The islanders looked at Paul. They knew he was a prisoner.

"What has he done?" they wondered. "Is he a murderer?"

Suddenly a bit of wood started to move.

It wasn't a stick but a stiff, sleeping snake. Woken by the hot flames, it fastened its fangs into Paul's hand and bit him. The islanders watched, expecting him to fall down dead.

"He must be a terrible criminal who survived the shipwreck, but now he's going to die and get the punishment he deserves," they thought.

But they were wrong. Paul didn't die. So they kept on looking at him.

"He must be a god to have survived so much," they decided.

Paul told them, "I'm not a god. There is only one true God."

The people of Malta were very kind to the survivors. They took all the 276 people into their homes and looked after them for three months.

Publius was the governor of Malta. His father was sick. Paul prayed for him and he was healed by the power of Jesus. News about this spread and many sick people came to Paul to be healed.

On his way to Rome Paul and 275 others were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. How would he get to Rome and reach his goal now?

If you're serious about sport, it is important to set goals. Decide what you want to achieve and when.

In his race with Jesus, Paul had a goal. It was to go to Rome. He wanted to tell people in the capital of the Empire the good news about Jesus and help them become Christians.

The islanders became friends with Paul and the survivors. They were all sad to say goodbye when, at last, a ship arrived. It took them to a harbour about 200 kilometres from Rome. So Paul had to walk for several days to finish his journey.

Some of the Christians in Rome heard he was coming and walked to welcome him. Paul was thrilled to meet them. He was excited to be near his goal. He thanked and praised God. At last he arrived in Rome.

Paul wasn't put into prison. He was under house arrest. Soldiers took turns to guard him. He told them the good news and helped them begin their race with Jesus.

Paul had lots of visitors. He always talked with them about Jesus. He also wrote letters. Some of them are in our Bibles.

Some Jews, who were not Christians, came to see Paul. He spent a whole day telling them about Jesus. Some trusted Jesus but many refused to believe. This made Paul sad. But many others, especially those who were not Jews, did believe in Jesus.

We don't know what happened next because we are not told in the Bible. In the end Paul was executed and the Christians were very sad. But Paul reached the main goal of his life's race – to be with Jesus in heaven

Read the story for yourself in the Bible in Acts 28.

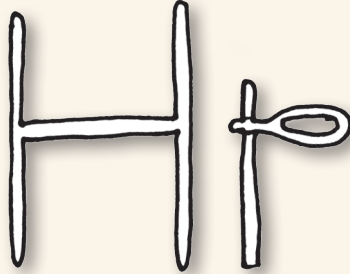


BE AN ATHLETE

Aim to Reach a Goal

Set yourself a sports goal and try hard to reach it. For example, if you have a netball hoop or goal posts at school or near your home, use them.

Decide your rules. Where will you shoot from?
How many shots?
How many goals will you try to achieve? Perhaps you could have a competition with a friend.
Now try to reach your goal. If you do, you can make it harder and try again.



QUIZ:

PAUL'S FRIENDS IN ROME

Before he went to Rome, Paul wrote a letter to the church there. At the end of the letter he listed his friends and sent them greetings. Look up these verses in Romans 16 in a Good New Bible. Find their names and fill in the blanks.

Who risked their lives for Paul (verses 3 – 4)?

P _____ and A _____

Who was the first man in the province of Asia (part of Turkey) to believe in Christ (verse 5)?

E _____

Who had been in prison with Paul (verse 7)?

A _____ and J _____

Whose loyalty to Christ has been proved (verse 10)?

A _____

Whose mother always treated Paul like a son (verse 13)?

R _____

A VERSE TO LEARN

When you are running a race, never look back. The words in this verse have been spelled backwards! Copy it, making the letters go the right way. Look up the reference in a Good News Bible to check it and learn the verse.

I nur thgiarts sdrawot eht laog ni redro ot niw eht ezirp.

Philippians 3: 14

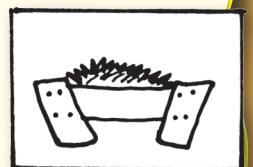
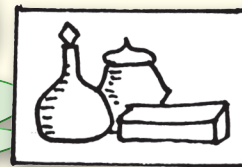
TALKING WITH THE COACH

Thank you for all we've learned about the race with Jesus from the life of Paul this year in Kid Zone. Please help me to keep on in the race with you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

PLACE MATS FOR CHRISTMAS

You need several sheets of white or plain pastel coloured paper or thin card, felts and clear Contact.

Draw pictures of the Christmas story. Cover them front and back with Contact (or laminate them). Use them as placemats for your Christmas Dinner.



AN AWARD

If you have done Kid Zone each month (or most months) in 2012, you deserve an award. Copy this certificate larger. Fill in your name and ask an adult to sign it. Stand on a podium to be presented with your award. Hang it up.



AWARDED TO

.....
(name)

for running the race with Kid Zone in 2012

Signed:.....