



**Stick
TOGETHER**

"I must go to Rome, the capital of the Empire, to tell people about Jesus," Paul decided.

But then he became a prisoner far away in Jerusalem. How ever would he get to Rome?

"Don't worry," Jesus told him one night in a dream. "I will take you to Rome."

Paul had several trials in court but the judges couldn't decide what to do with him.

"I appeal to be tried by Caesar, the Roman Emperor," Paul said.

So, because he was a Roman citizen, he had to be taken to Rome by ship.

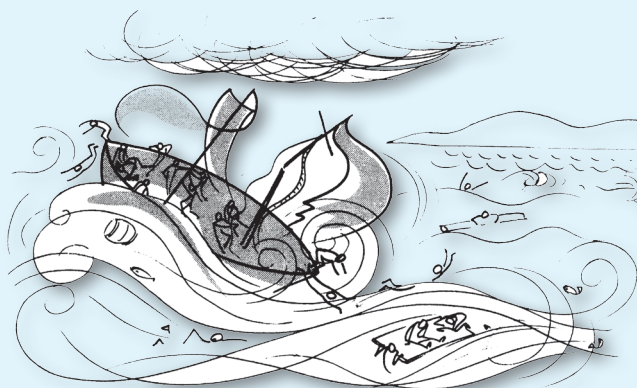
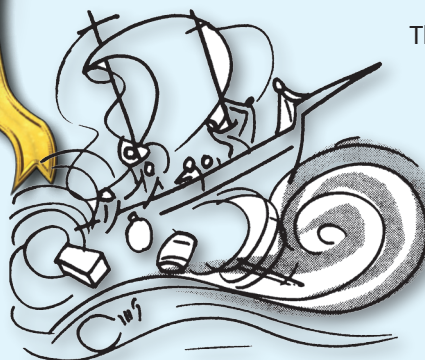
He sailed on a really big ship. There were 276 people on board, the captain and his sailors, a centurion and his soldiers in charge of Paul and the other prisoners. Aristarchus and Luke, Christian friends of Paul's travelled with him, too.

It was a sailing ship and they lost a lot of time because of head winds. Winter was from November to February, when no ships could sail because of storms. At the end of October they got to a harbour on the island of Crete. Everyone wanted to go on to a better harbour to stay for three months.

"It will be too dangerous," Paul warned.

But he was only a prisoner and no one listened.

The ship set sail but suddenly they were hit by a terrible hurricane. They got some shelter as they passed a small island and struggled to drag aboard the small boat they were towing.



Some Olympic events, like beach volleyball and hockey, are team games. All the players must share a clear aim to win and stick together whatever happens.

In his race with Jesus, Paul had a clear aim. But he had to stick together with others and with Jesus, his Coach, to reach this goal.

They tied ropes right round the ship and the boat to hold them all together.

They were scared the storm would blow them onto sandbanks near North Africa, so they set a sail to change direction and let the wind drive them.

They threw the cargo and everything they could overboard to lighten the ship. They felt sure they would all drown.

One night Paul had another dream. "The ship will be wrecked, but everyone will be saved," Jesus told him, "and I'll still take you to Rome."

In the morning Paul told everyone what Jesus

had said. The storm went on for two weeks.

Then, in the middle of a dark night, the sailors measured the depth twice and knew they were getting close to land. They dropped four anchors.

The sailors tried to escape in the small boat and leave the rest to drown. But Paul

saw this and told the centurion, who stopped them.

Paul cooked breakfast, said grace to thank God and served food to everyone. This cheered them all up.

When it started to become light, they saw a sandy beach, cut the anchor ropes, put up a sail and tried to steer to the beach. But the ship hit a sandbank and stuck.

The soldiers were scared the prisoners would escape and wanted to kill them all. But the centurion said, "No". Paul had done so much to help everyone that the centurion wanted to save his life.

The ship started to break up. Everyone jumped into the sea. Some could swim. Others held on to floating planks. They all got safely to shore. They were on the island of Malta, but still a long way from Rome.

Read the story yourself from the Bible in Acts 19:21; 23:11; 25:9 – 12 and 27: 1 – 44.

BE AN ATHLETE

Are you a good team player? Tick the boxes for what you choose to do.

You have the chance of a difficult shot at goal and your team mate has an easy one. Would you

- ☐ try for goal yourself or
- ☐ pass the ball to your team mate?

Tuesday night is team practice. Would you

- ☐ stay home and practise by yourself or
- ☐ go out to practise with your team?

The captain tells you the team strategy for the game. You think you have a better idea. Would you

- ☐ follow your own strategy or
- ☐ obey the captain?

If you ticked the second box each time you're probably a good team player.

A QUIZ: TEAM LEADERS IN THE BIBLE

Look up these verses to find the names of people who chose team mates and led them. Fill in the missing letters.

Philippians 4: 2 – 3 (See Philippians 1:1) P _ _ _ _

Exodus 18: 24 – 26 M _ _ _ _

Judges 4: 4 – 9 D _ _ _ _ _

1 Samuel 22: 1 – 2 D _ _ _ _

2 Kings 6: 1 – 7 E _ _ _ _

TALKING WITH THE COACH

Lord Jesus, thank you that you have chosen me to belong to your team. Please help me to be a good team player.

Amen.

A VERSE TO DECODE

To decode this verse write the next letter in the alphabet for each letter. The first two words are done for you. (Z = A)

XNT ZQD RSZMCHMF EHQL

YOU ARE

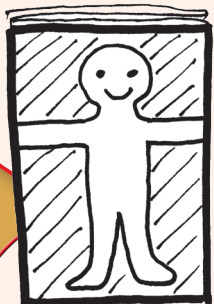
VHSG NMD BNLLNM OTQONRD...

EHFGSHMF SNFDSGDQ ENQ SGD

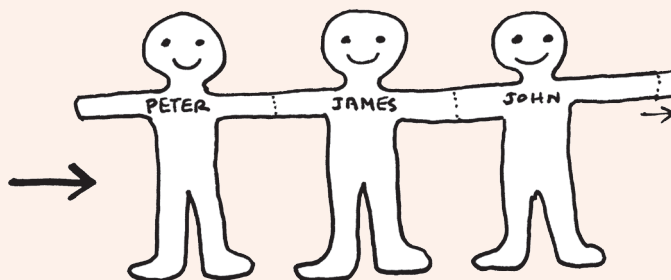
EZHSG NE SGD FNRODK

To check your answer look up Philippians 1:27 in a Good News Bible. Learn this verse.

12 concertina folds ↓



cut away the shaded parts



make Jesus' team of 12 disciples

CUT-OUTS OF JESUS' TEAM

You will need a long strip of paper, a pencil or pen and a pair of scissors.

Fold the paper to make 12 concertina panels. Draw the outline of a man on the front with his two hands stretched right out to the edges of the paper. Keep the paper folded and cut out the man, but don't cut around his hands. Leave them joined up. Unfold the paper. You should have 12 men all holding hands.

Look up Mark 3: 16 – 19 and copy one of the names of Jesus' 12 disciples onto each of the men.