

**[SERMON NOTES]**

Servesgiving Sunday

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**[QUICK REVIEW]**

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

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**[MY STORY]**

We all handle the unexpected things of life differently. Some of us love a good spontaneous surprise but others find it to be one of our least favorite things. We handle unexpected hardships differently as well. Some (like me [Samuel]) act like the sky is falling, others (not like me) set their mind to push through, determined to be unphased and get through that thing no matter what comes. Some follow one of the typical reactions of fight, flight, or freeze. Some defy expectations and do their own thing. **How do you typically handle the unexpected surprises and/or hardships of life?**

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**[DIGGING DEEPER]**

This week marks Week 27 of our series in Acts, which finds us in chapter 27 with Paul and a bunch of soldiers and prisoners facing storms and a shipwreck. If you were with us on Sunday, you'll remember that we did not dive into this text because of Servesgiving, so we're going to spend a little more time this week in this Message Discussion Guide unpacking chapter 27. **So if you have the time, have someone read all of Acts 27. If you have less time, read v10-22.**

When facing the storm, the Centurion and others on board attempted to do everything they could to save the ship and to prevent it from sinking—they threw stuff overboard (multiple times), they let out the anchor, they lash the sides of the ship together. In the storms of life, we will do anything we can to take control of our situations. ***What are some things that give you a sense of control when the storms of life come?***

In John 16, Jesus says, *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* After everything seemed hopeless on the seas in Acts 27, Paul gives this good news to the crew: *"But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed."* The reality is that God is always with us, and is able to get us through whatever we face, but sometimes the ship we were in still sinks. ***What are the "ships" in your life that you are afraid of losing? (i.e. family, friends, reputation, job, wealth, etc.)***

There are many other stories in scripture about the sea. As a reminder, there is always the additional weekly readings at the bottom of every Message Discussion Guide, which this week all have to do with God's deliverance through the seas of life. **Read Matthew 8:23-27 and Psalm 107:23-32. List all of the parallels between these two texts.**

***What is the most encouraging part of these two texts for you?***

***The next time you are in a storm of life, or if you are currently in one now, what is one idea, phrase or takeaway from this study that you want to constantly bring to mind and cling to in times of trouble?***

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**[WEEKLY READINGS]**

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

**Acts 27**

**Exodus 14**

**Matthew 8**

**Jonah 1-2**