

- Song 129 and Prayer
- Opening Comments (3 min. or less)

TREASURES FROM GOD’S WORD

- **“Paul Sails for Rome”: (10 min.)**
25:11; 26:1-3, 28



27:23, 24; 28:1, 2, 16, 17

Paul never stopped sharing his faith despite being a prisoner. While on the ship, he witnessed to crew members and fellow passengers. After being shipwrecked on Malta, he no doubt took the opportunity to share the good news with those he healed. Just three days after arriving in Rome, he called together the principal men of the Jews in order to witness to them. And during the two years of his house arrest, he preached to all who visited him.

What can you do to share the good news despite any limitations you may have?

- (Acts 27:23, 24) This night an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I render sacred service stood by me 24 and said: ‘Have no fear, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and look! God has granted to you all those sailing with you.’
- (Acts 28:1, 2) After we made it to safety, we learned that the island was called Malta. 2 And the foreign-speaking people showed us extraordinary kindness. They kindled a fire and received all of us kindly because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.
- (Acts 28:16, 17) When finally we entered Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him. 17 However, three days later he called together the principal men of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them: “Men, brothers, although I had done nothing contrary to the people or the customs of our forefathers, I was handed over as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

Ac 27:23, 24—An angel told Paul that all those sailing with him would survive the storm (bt 208 ¶15)

(Acts 27:23, 24) 23 This night an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I render sacred service stood by me 24 and said: ‘Have no fear, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and look! God has granted to you all those sailing with you.’

*** bt chap. 26 p. 208 par. 15 “Not a Soul of You Will Be Lost” ***

15 Likely Paul had been witnessing to many on the ship about “the hope of the promise that was made by God.” (Acts 26:6; Col. 1:5) Now, with shipwreck probable, Paul could offer a powerful basis for a more immediate hope. He

said: “This night there stood near me an angel . . . , saying, ‘Have no fear, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and, look! God has freely given you all those sailing with you.’” Paul urged them: “Therefore be of good cheer, men; for I believe God that it will be exactly as it has been told me. However, we must be cast ashore on a certain island.”—Acts 27:23-26.

- Paragraph 15
- (Acts 26:6) But now for the hope of the promise that was made by God to our forefathers, I stand on trial;
- (Colossians 1:5) because of the hope that is being reserved for you in the heavens. You previously heard about this hope through the message of truth of the good news
- (Acts 27:23-26) This night an angel of the God to whom I belong and to whom I render sacred service stood by me 24 and said: ‘Have no fear, Paul. You must stand before Caesar, and look! God has granted to you all those sailing with you.’ 25 So take courage, men, for I believe God that it will be exactly as I was told. 26 However, we must be cast ashore on some island.”

Ac 28:1, 2—Paul was shipwrecked on Malta (bt 209 ¶18; 210 ¶21)

(Acts 28:1, 2) 28 After we made it to safety, we learned that the island was called Malta. 2 And the foreign-speaking people showed us extraordinary kindness. They kindled a fire and received all of us kindly because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

*** bt chap. 26 pp. 209-210 par. 18 “Not a Soul of You Will Be Lost” ***

18 It turned out that the survivors were on the island of Malta, south of Sicily. (See the box “Malta—Where?”) The foreign-speaking people of the island showed them “extraordinary human kindness.” (Acts 28:2) They made a fire for these strangers who had reached their shore drenched and shivering. The fire helped them to get warm despite the cold and rain. It also gave rise to a miracle.

*** bt chap. 26 p. 210 par. 21 “Not a Soul of You Will Be Lost” ***

21 The wealthy landowner Publius lived in the area. He may have been the leading Roman officer on Malta. Luke described him as “the principal man of the island,” employing the exact title that has been found on two Maltese inscriptions. He hospitably entertained Paul and his companions for three days. However, Publius’ father was ill. Again Luke described a condition with accuracy. He wrote that the man “was lying down distressed with fever and dysentery,” citing the precise medical nature of the illness. Paul prayed and laid his hands on the man, and he was healed. Deeply impressed by this miracle, the local people brought other sick ones to be healed, and they brought gifts to fill the needs of Paul and his companions.—Acts 28:7-10.

- (Acts 28:7-10) 7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the principal man of the island, whose name was Pub’li-us, and he welcomed us and entertained us hospitably for three days. 8 It so happened that the father of Pub’li-us was lying in bed sick with fever and dysentery, and Paul went in to him and prayed, laid his hands on him, and healed him. 9 After this occurred, the rest of the people on the island who were sick also began to come to him and be cured. 10 They also honored us

with many gifts, and when we were setting sail, they loaded us up with whatever we needed.

Ac 28:16, 17—Paul safely arrived in Rome (bt 213 ¶10)

(Acts 28:16, 17) 16 When finally we entered Rome, Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him. **17** However, three days later he called together the principal men of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them: “Men, brothers, although I had done nothing contrary to the people or the customs of our forefathers, I was handed over as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans.

*** bt chap. 27 p. 213 par. 10 “Bearing Thorough Witness” ***

10 When the band of travelers finally entered into Rome, “Paul was permitted to stay by himself with the soldier guarding him.” (Acts 28:16) For those in light custody, security against escape usually called for a chain that bound the prisoner to his guard. Even so, Paul was a Kingdom proclaimer, and a chain certainly could not silence him. Hence, after giving himself just three days to recover from the journey, he called together the principal men of the Jews in Rome in order to introduce himself and give a witness.

Digging for Spiritual Gems:

Ac 27:9—What was “the fast of Atonement Day”? (“the fast of Atonement Day” study note on Ac 27:9, nwtsty)

(Acts 27:9) 9 A considerable time had passed and by now it was hazardous to navigate, because even the fast of Atonement Day was already over, so Paul made a recommendation

*** nwtsty Acts Study Notes—Chapter 27 ***
27:9

the fast of Atonement Day: Or “the autumn fast.” Lit., “the fast.” The Greek term for “the fast” refers to the only fast commanded under the Mosaic Law, that is, the fast in connection with the yearly Atonement Day, also called Yom Kippur (Hebrew, yohm hak·kip·pu·rim', “day of the coverings”). (Le 16:29-31; 23:26-32; Nu 29:7; see Glossary, “Day of Atonement.”) The expression “to afflict oneself,” used in connection with the Atonement Day, is generally understood to mean to engage in various forms of self-denial, including fasting. (Le 16:29, ftn.) The use of the term “the fast” at Ac 27:9 supports the idea that a primary form of self-denial practiced on Atonement Day involved fasting. The Atonement Day fast fell in late September or early October.

Ac 28:11—What is significant about the detail regarding the ship’s figurehead? (“Sons of Zeus” study note on Ac 28:11, nwtsty)

(Acts 28:11) 11 Three months later we set sail in a ship with the figurehead “Sons of Zeus.” The ship was from Alexandria and had wintered in the island.

*** nwtsty Acts Study Notes—Chapter 28 ***
28:11

Sons of Zeus: According to Greek and Roman mythology, the “Sons of Zeus” (Greek, Di·o'skou·roi) were Castor and Pollux, twin sons of the god Zeus (Jupiter) and the Spartan Queen Leda. Among other things, they were regarded as the protectors of mariners, able to save sailors imperiled at sea. This detail regarding the ship’s figurehead is another testimony that the account was written by an eyewitness.

What has this week's Bible reading taught you about Jehovah?

What other spiritual gems have you discovered in this week's Bible reading?

Bible Reading:)
Ac 27:1-12
 (4 min. or less) •

(Acts 27:1-12) 27 Now as it was decided for us to sail away to Italy, they handed Paul and some other prisoners over to an army officer named Julius, of the unit of Au·gus'tus. 2 Going aboard a ship from Ad·ra·myt'ti·um that was about to sail to ports along the coast of the province of Asia, we set sail; Ar·is·tar'chus, a Mac·e·do'ni·an from Thes·sa·lo·ni'ca, was with us. 3 The next day we landed at Si'don, and Julius treated Paul with kindness and permitted him to go to his friends and enjoy their care.

4 And putting out to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cy'prus, because the winds were against us. 5 Then we navigated through the open sea along Ci·li'cia and Pam·phyl'i·a and put into port at My'ra in Ly'ci·a. 6 There the army officer found a ship

from Alexandria that was sailing for Italy, and he made us board it. 7 Then after sailing on slowly quite a number of days, we came to Cni'dus with difficulty. Because the wind did not let us make headway, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Sal·mo'ne. 8 And sailing with difficulty along the coast, we came to a place called Fair Havens, which was near the city of La·se'a.

9 A considerable time had passed and by now it was hazardous to navigate, because even the fast of Atonement Day was already over, so Paul made a recommendation 10 to them: "Men, I can see that this voyage is going to result in damage and great loss not only of the cargo and the ship but also of our lives." 11 However, the army officer listened to the pilot and the shipowner rather than to what Paul was saying. 12 Since the harbor was unsuitable for wintering, the majority advised setting sail from there to see if they could somehow make it to spend the winter in Phoenix, a harbor of Crete that opens toward the northeast and toward the southeast.

APPLY YOURSELF TO THE FIELD MINISTRY

• **Second Return Visit Video: (5 min.)**
Play and discuss the video.

**Second Return Visit: (3 min. or less)
Use the sample conversation. (th study 2)**

*** mwb19 January p. 1 Sample Conversations

○○● SECOND RETURN VISIT

Question: How can we become God’s friends?

Scripture: Joh 17:3

Link: How can we feel close to God since we cannot see him?

- (John 17:3) 3 This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

• Bible Study: (5 min. or less) lvs 165-166 ¶16-17 (th study 3)

*** lvs chap. 12 pp. 165-166 pars. 16-17 Speak What “Is Good for Building Up” ***

16 Both Jehovah and Jesus generously give commendation. We want to imitate them. (Matthew 3:17; 25:19-23; John 1:47) To give commendation that will really encourage someone involves being thoughtful and showing personal interest. “A word spoken at the right time—how good it is!” says Proverbs 15:23. We are encouraged when someone sincerely commends us for our hard work or expresses appreciation for something we have done.—Read Matthew 7:12; see Endnote 27.

17 If you make it a habit to look for the good in others, it will be easier to give sincere commendation. For example, perhaps you notice that someone in the congregation prepares well for his talks or makes an effort to comment at meetings. A young person may

take a fine stand for the truth in school, or an older person may regularly share in the ministry. Your words of appreciation may be just what they need. It is also very important for a husband to tell his wife that he loves and appreciates her. (Proverbs 31:10, 28) Just as plants need light and water, people need to feel appreciated. This is especially true of children. Look for opportunities to commend them for their good qualities and efforts. Commendation can build their courage and confidence and can make them try even harder to do what is right.

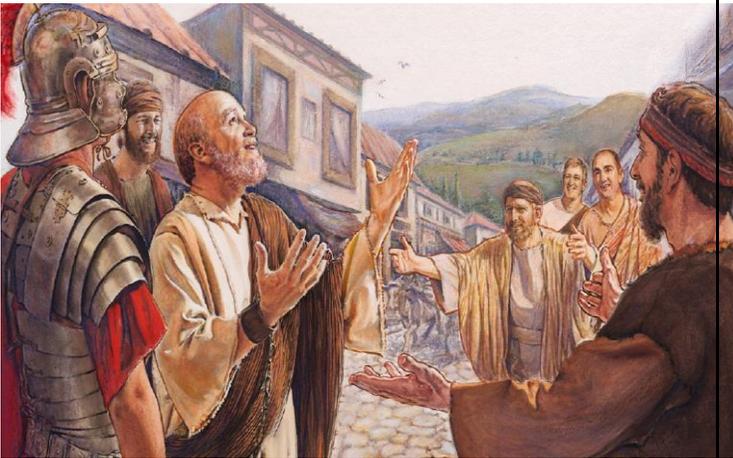
- Paragraph 16
- (Matthew 3:17) Look! Also, a voice from the heavens said: “This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved.”
- (Matthew 25:19-23) “After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 So the one who had received the five talents came forward and brought five additional talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I gained five talents more.’ 21 His master said to him: ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things. I will appoint you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 Next the one who had received the two talents came forward and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me; see, I gained two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him: ‘Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things. I will appoint you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.’
- (John 1:47) Jesus saw Na-than'a-el coming toward him and said about him: “See, truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

- (Proverbs 15:23) A man rejoices in giving the right answer, And a word spoken at the right time—how good it is!
- (Matthew 7:12) “All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them. This, in fact, is what the Law and the Prophets mean.
- Paragraph 17
- (Proverbs 31:10) Who can find a capable wife? Her value is far more than that of corals.
- (Proverbs 31:28) Her children rise up and declare her happy; Her husband rises up and praises her.

LIVING AS CHRISTIANS

Song 103

• **“Paul Thanked God and Took Courage”:** (15 min.) Discussion. Play the video “Iron Sharpens Iron”—Excerpt. Encourage all to view the video in its entirety.



*** mwb19 January p. 7 “Paul Thanked God and Took Courage” ***

When the congregation in Rome heard that Paul was coming, a delegation of brothers journeyed some 40 miles (64 km) to meet him. How did their self-sacrificing love affect Paul? “On catching sight of them, Paul thanked God and took courage.” (Ac 28:15) Although Paul

was known for building up the congregations that he visited, on this occasion when he was a prisoner, he was the one who received encouragement.—2Co 13:10.

Today circuit overseers travel from congregation to congregation to build up the brothers and sisters. Like all of God’s people, at times they experience tiredness, anxiety, and discouragement. The next time the circuit overseer and his wife serve your congregation, what can you do to help them take courage, so that there is “an interchange of encouragement”?—Ro 1:11, 12.

- (Acts 28:15) From there the brothers, when they heard the news about us, came as far as the Marketplace of Ap’pi-us and Three Taverns to meet us. On catching sight of them, Paul thanked God and took courage.
- (2 Corinthians 13:10) That is why I write these things while absent, so that when I am present, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord gave me, to build up and not to tear down.
- (Romans 1:11, 12) For I am longing to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift to you for you to be made firm; 12 or, rather, that we may have an interchange of encouragement by one another’s faith, both yours and mine.



- Support the meetings for field service. The circuit overseer is encouraged when publishers make sacrifices to benefit fully from the special week of activity. (1Th 1:2, 3; 2:20) Consider auxiliary pioneering during the month of his visit. Could you offer to work with him and his wife in the ministry or take one of them with you on a Bible study? They enjoy working with different publishers, including those who are new or who lack a measure of skill in the ministry.

- (1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3) We always thank God when we mention all of you in our prayers, 3 for we continually remember your faithful work, your loving labor, and your endurance because of your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.

- (1 Thessalonians 2:20) You certainly are our glory and joy.

- Offer hospitality. Could you offer sleeping accommodations or a meal? This shows the circuit overseer and his wife that you love them. They do not expect anything elaborate.—Lu 10:38-42.

- (Luke 10:38-42) Now as they went on their way, he entered into a certain village. Here a woman named Martha received him as a guest in her house. 39 She also had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and kept listening to what he was saying. 40 Martha, on the other hand, was distracted with attending to many duties. So she came to him and said: “Lord, does it not matter to you that my sister has left me alone to attend to things? Tell her to come and help me.” 41 In answer the Lord said to her: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and disturbed about many things. 42 A few things, though, are needed, or just one. For her part, Mary chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her.”



- Listen to and apply his direction and counsel. The circuit overseer lovingly helps us to see how we can improve in our service to Jehovah. At times, he may have to give strong counsel. (1Co 5:1-5) It brings him joy when we are obedient and submissive.—Heb 13:17.

- (1 Corinthians 5:1-5) Actually sexual immorality is reported among you, and such immorality as is not even found among the nations—of a man living with his father’s wife. 2 And are you proud of it? Should you not rather mourn, so that the man who committed this deed should be taken away from your midst? 3 Although absent in body, I am present in spirit, and I have already judged the man who has done this, as if I were actually with you. 4 When you are gathered together in the name of our Lord Jesus, and knowing that I am with you in spirit along with the power of our Lord Jesus, 5 you must hand such a man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

- (Hebrews 13:17) Be obedient to those who are taking the lead among you and be submissive, for they are keeping watch over you as those who will render an account, so that they may do this with joy and not with sighing, for this would be damaging to you.

- Express appreciation. Tell the circuit overseer and his wife how their efforts benefited you. You can do this in person or by means of a note or card.—Col 3:15.

- (Colossians 3:15) Also, let the peace of the Christ rule in your hearts, for you were called to that peace in one body. And show yourselves thankful.

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

Congregation Bible Study: (30 min.)

1 Jy chap. 52

(Matthew 14:13-21) At hearing this, Jesus departed from there by boat into an isolated place to be alone. But the crowds, getting to hear of it, followed him on foot from the cities. 14 When he came ashore, he saw a large crowd, and he felt pity for them, and he cured their sick ones. 15 But when evening fell, his disciples came to him and said: “The place is isolated and the hour is already late; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food.” 16 However, Jesus said to them: “They do not have to leave; you give them something to eat.” 17 They said to him: “We have nothing here except five loaves and two fish.” 18 He said: “Bring them here to me.” 19 And he instructed the crowds to recline on the grass. Then he took the five loaves and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said a blessing, and after breaking the loaves, he gave them to the

disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 So they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the leftover fragments, 12 baskets full. 21 Now those eating were about 5,000 men, as well as women and young children.

(Mark 6:30-44) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them: “Come, you yourselves, privately into an isolated place and rest up a little.” For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure time even to eat a meal. 32 So they set off in the boat for an isolated place to be by themselves. 33 But people saw them going and many got to know it, and from all the cities they ran together on foot and got there ahead of them. 34 Well, on getting out, he saw a large crowd, and he was moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. And he started to teach them many things. 35 By now the hour had grown late, and his disciples came up to him and said: “This place is isolated, and the hour is already late. 36 Send them away, so that they may go off into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” 37 He replied to them: “You give them something to eat.” At this they said to him: “Should we go off and buy 200 de·nar'i-i worth of bread and give it to the people to eat?” 38 He said to them: “How many loaves do you have? Go see!” After finding out, they said: “Five, besides two fish.” 39 And he instructed all the people to recline in groups on the green grass. 40 So they reclined in groups of 100 and of 50. 41 Taking now the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves up and began giving them to the disciples to place them before the people, and he divided up the two fish for all. 42 So they all ate and were satisfied, 43 and they took up 12 baskets full of fragments, aside from the fish. 44 Those who ate the loaves were 5,000 men.

(Luke 9:10-17) When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus all they had done. With that he took them along and withdrew privately

into a city called Beth·sa'i·da. 11 But the crowds, getting to know it, followed him. And he received them kindly and began to speak to them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those needing a cure. 12 Then the day was coming to a close. The Twelve now came up and said to him: “Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and provisions, because out here we are in an isolated place.” 13 But he said to them: “You give them something to eat.” They said: “We have nothing more than five loaves and two fish, unless perhaps we ourselves go and buy food for all these people.” 14 There were, in fact, about 5,000 men. But he said to his disciples: “Have them sit down in groups of about 50 each.” 15 And they did so and had them all sit down. 16 Taking now the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed them. Then he broke them up and began giving them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 So they all ate and were satisfied, and they took up the leftovers, 12 baskets of fragments.

(John 6:1-13) After this Jesus set out across the Sea of Gal'i·lee, or Ti·be'ri·as. 2 And a large crowd kept following him, because they were observing the miraculous signs he was performing in healing the sick. 3 So Jesus went up on a mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5 When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip: “Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?” 6 However, he was saying this to test him, for he knew what he was about to do. 7 Philip answered him: “Two hundred de·nar'i-i worth of bread is not enough for each of them to get even a little.” 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him: 9 “Here is a little boy who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what are these among so many?” 10 Jesus said: “Have the men sit down.” As there was a lot of grass in that place, the men sat down there, about 5,000 in number. 11 Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks, he

distributed it to those who were sitting there; he did likewise with the small fish, and they had as much as they wanted. 12 But when they had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples: "Gather together the fragments left over, so that nothing is wasted." 13 So they gathered them together and filled 12 baskets with fragments left over by those who had eaten from the five barley loaves.

Paragraph 1 on Page 128

(Mark 6:30, 31) The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all the things they had done and taught. 31 And he said to them: "Come, you yourselves, privately into an isolated place and rest up a little." For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure time even to eat a meal.

Paragraph 3 on Page 128

(Mark 6:34) Well, on getting out, he saw a large crowd, and he was moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd. And he started to teach them many things.

(Luke 9:11) But the crowds, getting to know it, followed him. And he received them kindly and began to speak to them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those needing a cure.

(Matthew 14:15) But when evening fell, his disciples came to him and said: "The place is isolated and the hour is already late; send the crowds away, so that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food."

Paragraph 4 on Page 128

(Matthew 14:16) However, Jesus said to them: "They do not have to leave; you give them something to eat."

(John 6:5-7) When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip: "Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?" 6 However, he was saying this to test him, for he knew what he was about to do. 7 Philip answered him: "Two hundred de-nar'i-i worth of bread is not enough for each of them to get even a little."

Paragraph 5 on Page 128

(John 6:9) "Here is a little boy who has five barley loaves and two small fish. But what are these among so many?"

Paragraph 7 on Page 128

(John 6:12) But when they had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples: "Gather together the fragments left over, so that nothing is wasted."

◇ Why does Jesus seek a place of privacy for his apostles?

◇ Where do Jesus and the disciples go, and what do they encounter there?

◇ What do the disciples urge Jesus to do, but how does he care for the people?

• Review Followed by Preview of Next Week (3 min.)

- Song 93 and Prayer