

## “Take Heart!”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### Message Summary

After spending more than 2 years in a Roman jail cell in his homeland, the apostle Paul finally began the long journey to Rome. But this trip would not be without significant trial. Paul’s life was in danger not only because he had been falsely accused by his Jewish brothers but also because he was aboard a ship that would soon meet her end in the rough winter waters of the Mediterranean Sea. Paul, however, knew that Jesus the Lord had promised him that he would stand before the Caesar in Rome to bear witness to Jesus. Come what may, Paul was bound for Rome.

The story of Paul’s journey to Rome was told by Luke in intricate detail. As a matter of fact, the account of Paul’s journey to Rome remains a valuable source of ancient sailing techniques by scholars of the history of navigation. But of what spiritual value is the story? The answer is found not only in the promises made by Jesus to Paul while he was in the Roman jail cell in Jerusalem but also in the promises made to Paul by the angel of God who appeared to him on the ship at night. This account, found in Acts 27:22-25, is the interpretive key of this entire section.

Paul’s encouragement to the sailors to “take heart!” when they realized their doom was imminent is encouragement for us today. The reason is because Jesus is Lord! Our understanding of this passage and the events in our lives needs to be guided by the truth of Jesus’ lordship. As Lord, Jesus not only controls everything but He also has authority over everything. Both His control and His authority imply His presence. Just as Moses was the man with whom God dwelt (Exodus 3:11-12), so was Jesus with Paul on his journey to Rome.

If Jesus were not in control, living the mission would not be very appealing! But because He is in control and has authority over everything we not only can rest assured that He holds our lives in His hands but we can serve Him in obedience because He knows what’s best for our lives and holds our destiny in His hands. Knowing all of this should provoke worship just as it did in Moses and in Paul and many others throughout the course of biblical history.

Think through these truths as you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week. How will the lordship of Jesus affect the way you interact with people this week? How will it affect the way you live at work, at home, and on mission? As you think through your response to these questions don’t get discouraged but take heart, because Jesus is Lord!

### Message Outline

**Take heart, for God is accomplishing His plan to make for Himself a people who will worship Jesus as Lord.**

“Jesus is Lord” means:

1. He controls all things.

Therefore...He holds our lives in His hands.

2. He has authority over all things.

Therefore...He commands our obedience.

3. He is present among His people.

Therefore...He deserves our worship.

## “Take Heart!”

### **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Acts 27:1-28:16:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

### **Weekly Prayer Focus**

- **Church:**
  - Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
  - Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- **Local:**
  - Pray for the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach.
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the new believer in SEA and for those who have heard the Gospel.
  - Pray for A&M in SEA and their team as they seek to lead a church planting movement among the unreached.
  - Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger
  - Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay
  - Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.