

## Flashback I'm Still Alive

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

### Key Scriptures

*When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.<sup>2</sup> The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.<sup>3</sup> But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.<sup>4</sup> When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."<sup>5</sup> However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.*

*Acts 28:1-5*

**Big idea:** In this passage we see God's faithfulness. He works through shipwrecks and snakebites and provides a way for Paul to get an audience with the islanders to share the Gospel. This is Romans 8:28 in action.

- How does this realization strengthen your faith?

## TALK IT OVER

**Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever found yourself in a situation where strangers offered you unexpected kindness?
- How did you respond?
- Did you use the opportunity to witness for Christ?

**Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- When Paul shook the snake off into the fire and did not suffer from it, how did the islanders' opinion change about Paul? See Acts 28:5-6.
- What did the islanders think about Paul when they saw he had been bitten?
- Have you ever witnessed something bad happen to someone and wondered if they deserved it?

**Start Sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Has God ever used a disaster in your life to strengthen your faith or the faith of others?
- How might these stories set the stage for Paul to write about how his sufferings served to advance the Gospel (see Philippians 1:12-13)?
- How does John 16:33 apply to the life of Paul?

**Start Doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- I will look for opportunities to allow God to use me even in difficult circumstances.

**Dinner Discussion.** Read and talk over the following Bible passages this week.

- Are hard times an indication of God's displeasure?
- Are good times an indication of God's pleasure?
- Look at John 9:1-5 and Luke 13:1-5 and read what Jesus says about this type of situation. What does the Bible say about why bad things happen?

**Don't Let The Conversation Stop Here. Keep Talking It Over Online.**

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