

## Being Light When Others Have Lost Hope (Acts 27:27–38)

— Student Handout

### Introduction

- Context: Paul shipwrecked with crew and passengers; after a long night they sighted land and faced danger, fear, and uncertainty (Acts 27:27–38).
- Purpose: Learn how to be a light for those who have lost hope using three C's: Clarity, Courage, Compassion.

### Scripture Passage

- Read Acts 27:27–38 (suggested: before group discussion).

#### 1. **Clarity** (Bring about some positive clarity)

- Key verses: Acts 27:27–29, 33–36.
- What it is: Honest, calm communication of the situation and concrete next steps.
- Why it matters: Clarity reduces panic, enables cooperation, and points people to actionable hope.

*Illustration:* Lighthouse — A steady light reveals hazards and safe channels; clarity doesn't remove danger but guides safe action

- Quick application: Speak simple truths and give one concrete next step when helping someone in crisis.

#### 2. **Courage** ( Exemplify and encourage them to remain steady)

- Key verses: Acts 27:23–25, 31–32; 27:42–44 (related example of moral courage).
- What it is: Steady, faith-rooted action in the presence of fear; choosing to stay and lead.
- Why it matters: Courage calms others and enables protective, life-preserving decisions.
- Illustration: Ship helmsman — a steady hand stabilizes the whole crew.
- Quick application: Be present; initiate one brave, helpful act (call, visit, lead).

#### 3. **Compassion**

- Key verses: Acts 27:33–36, 38–44.

- What it is: Practical, caring action — feeding, listening, helping people to safety.
- Why it matters: Tangible mercy restores dignity and hope; shows God’s love in action.

Suggested illustration: *Reaching for the Stars: The Inspiring Story of a Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut* and the Amazon Prime Video film, *A Million Miles Away*.

- Quick application: If we are really serious about the focus of the message today, we can start by offering one of these tangible help (meal, ride, childcare, listening).

### **Discussion Questions (small groups / personal reflection)**

1. Which of the three C’s do you most naturally offer? Which is hardest for you?
2. Think of someone in our community who seems discouraged. What clear, courageous, compassionate step could you take this week?
3. How does Paul’s example challenge typical “quick-fix” responses to fear?

### **Practical Action Steps (choose one this week)**

- Clarity: Send a short, calm message to someone in crisis with one clear next step (e.g., “Can I bring dinner Thursday? If so, what time?”).
- Courage: Make a phone call to stay with or check on someone who’s isolated or anxious.
- Compassion: Deliver a meal, groceries, or offer to babysit for a stressed family.

### **Leader/Teacher Tips**

- Read Acts 27:27–38 aloud before discussion.
- Invite real examples from the group; encourage specific, measurable commitments.
- Close with a short guided prayer asking God for clarity, courage, and compassion.

### **Closing Prayer (suggested)**

- “Lord, give us clarity to speak truth, courage to stand with those who are afraid, and compassion to meet practical needs. Use us as lights for those who have lost hope. Amen.”

### **Contact / Follow-up/ Suggested thing that we can do now**

- mobilize care teams or meals? Contact [Pastor and church leadership to express your willingness to help / email / phone].

- Help create a list for resources for crisis and put it on the website, in our church app, and in the foyer of our sanctuary?

#### Scripture Reading Plan (optional)

- This week: Acts 27 in full; next week: Acts 28 (Paul on shore; God's purposes continue).