**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: Shipwrecked**

Review the video for this session.



**Engage**

Read [Acts 27:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac27.1), [7–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac27.7-11), [20–26](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac27.20-26), [30–44](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac27.30-44).

**Consider**

On their journey, Paul and the others faced a massive storm that terrified everyone on board—except probably Paul. He heard from God and began to tell all those on board to take courage and not be afraid. Because of Paul’s bold words, the crew, soldiers, and other prisoners onboard had hope for the first time in their long journey through the storm. Perhaps you’re feeling like you are in a storm in your life, too. Maybe you feel afraid or alone. Learn from this example and apply it to your life.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think the sailors were so afraid of the storm, but Paul didn’t seem to be? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does it say about Paul’s character that he would help those who had imprisoned him? |

**Reflect**

Perhaps you’ve been in a situation when you felt like you didn’t have much room to trust Jesus. Maybe you got so wrapped up in the difficult circumstances in front of you that you lost sight of the One who could get you through it. Learning to trust God in those times is often a process—one that you can develop over time. When we spend consistent time with God, we will learn to trust Him even more. Then, the uncertainties of our storms won’t seem as bad. Instead, we learn to put our hope and faith in Him to get us through it.

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| **QUESTION**  How can this story from the Bible change the way you will view your next difficult situation in life? |

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| **QUESTION**  What areas in your life do you still have a hard time trusting Jesus to help you with? How can you change that? |

**Activate**

Take a notecard and write out the words of [Acts 27:25](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac27.25). Then, place the card somewhere you’ll see it every day. Whenever you start to doubt that God keeps His promises, you can believe that the Holy Spirit will bring this Scripture to your mind.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You that I can put my trust fully in You no matter how uncertain my future looks. I don’t want it to matter if things are going well or if they are very difficult. I want to pursue You and follow Your will for my life. Amen.

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**Day 2: Less Is More**

**Engage**

Read [Judges 6:12–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jdg6.12-16); [7:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jdg7.1-8), [19–22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jdg7.19-22).

**Consider**

In the first part of this passage, God called Gideon to lead an army and strike down the Midianites. Gideon was a timid man and self-proclaimed weakest person of the weakest clan. On the surface, he seemed to be the last person on earth that God would use to lead an army against a nation. He faced an unbelievably difficult task with endless uncertainties to it. All of us feel weak in our faith at times. What’s important is learning to trust God in those difficult moments. This is one of many stories in Scripture with a strong focus on relying on God and not ourself.

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| **QUESTION**  If you were Gideon, what would be going through your mind if God called you to do something like this? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think God kept shrinking Gideon’s army? |

**Reflect**

Sometimes the best thing we can do when faced with an impossibly difficult situation is to carefully do what God says. If we can walk in obedience and follow His lead, we have nothing to fear. He is far wiser, and He better understands all that is going on around us.

But like Gideon, many of us are hesitant when God calls on us. If we take Gideon’s example to heart and grow in our ability to trust God and obey, there is no stopping what we can do. With people from all around the world, we could bring the name of Jesus to every corner of the planet!

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| **QUESTION**  How does the story of Gideon inspire you to step out in faith? |

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| **QUESTION**  What can you do to become more confident in your ability to be used by God? |

**Activate**

One of Gideon’s problems was that he didn’t believe he was qualified to be used by God. Take some time right now and write out one or more things that you learned from this Bible story that will help you when you are having doubts about yourself.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, no matter how small the devil tries to make me feel, I know I am Your child. You are the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the Creator of the universe. Thank You for choosing to use me in Your master plan for this world. God, if I ever start to doubt who I am and my role in Your kingdom, please remind me that I belong. Amen.

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**Day 3: Nowhere to Go!**

**Engage**

Read [Exodus 14:10–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex14.10-28).

**Consider**

The Israelites, who had recently seen God perform miracle after miracle, let their current situation shake their trust in Him. The Israelites were in fear and couldn’t see anywhere to go. They wanted to be back in Egypt as slaves, completely ignoring all the incredible things God had done to get them to this point.

Most likely, you’ve had moments where you focused more on your current state than on what God has done for you in the past. This often results in worrying if God can help you in the current situation you face. This story is a good reminder to keep your thoughts and eyes on Him.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think the Israelites were so afraid despite having seen the miracles that God had done to get them out of slavery? |

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think the Israelites wanted to go back to slavery in Egypt? |

**Reflect**

Something repeated throughout the Old Testament is that the Israelites were blinded by difficult situations. They seemed to forget that they served a God who could be trusted to guide and protect them. And yet, so many Christians today act like the Israelites did in the Old Testament.

No matter how many times God brings us through something, our human nature tends to pull us back. We can be tempted to forget past miracles He has performed for us. Be challenged to live differently. Look at your circumstances differently. Look at them through the lens of our mighty God.

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| **QUESTION**  Can you name a time you seemed to be blinded by a difficult situation and forgot how God had provided for you in the past? What do you think you can do to help shift your mindset? |

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| **QUESTION**  What is something from today’s passage of Scripture that inspires you to keep moving forward with God? |

**Activate**

Draw, paint, or print a picture of a staff and hang it in your room. Remember, God told Moses to raise a staff over the water, and He would part it. Each day when you spend time with Jesus, look at the staff and let it be a visual reminder that He has already done great work in you. Remind yourself that God is bigger than your situation. He’s the same God who did great things in the past and will still do them today.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, please help me to see situations through Your eyes and not like the Israelites in this passage. I pray that I will always remember the miraculous power You have. You are a powerful God who can remove any doubt from my life when I am uncertain. Amen.

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**Day 4: Who’s Laughing Now?**

**Engage**

Read [Genesis 18:10–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge18.10-14); [21:1–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge21.1-7).

**Consider**

This account is an incredibly important moment in pre-Israelite history. Because Abraham and Sarah were so old, they found it difficult to believe that they’d still be able to have children of their own. Even when God told them they would, they still had their doubts. It just seemed like something that was impossible for them. But God made what seemed impossible, possible. And from the descendants of this old couple came the Israelite nation.

For some reason, people make excuses as to why God can’t do things for them. Remember, God loves you and wants what is best. This doesn’t mean we always get what we want, but it means He will do the right thing. The key is trusting Him in every situation, even seemingly impossible ones.

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| **QUESTION**  Why do you think Sarah laughed when she heard that they were going to have a baby? |

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| **QUESTION**  What emotions do you think Sarah and Abraham had when they found out Sarah was pregnant? |

**Reflect**

What made this miracle so amazing was that Abraham and Sarah were told they would have descendants that would number like the sand on the seashore and the stars in the sky. So at first, they were discouraged because they had no idea how this was going to happen.

Many Christians today struggle to believe that the dream God put in their heart will become a reality. If we learn to trust God’s words for us, who knows what we will be able to accomplish in this world for His glory!

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| **QUESTION**  Have you ever doubted God? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**  What can you learn from Abraham and Sarah in this story? |

**Activate**

Do you have a dream that you have never acted on because you thought it was impossible? Take some time in prayer to ask God to help expand your understanding of what is possible with Him. Then, spend regular time with Him, praying that you will be able to live out any God-sized dream He places in your heart.

**Pray**

Heavenly Father, You have created me with the potential to do something incredible for Your kingdom. Would You help me to see what it is what You want to be birthed out of my life? I don’t want to diminish the value of it or convince myself it is impossible. Help me to embrace the dreams You’ve given me. Amen.

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**Day 5: Perfect Peace**

**Engage**

Read [Isaiah 26:1–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is26.1-8).

**Consider**

The prophet Isaiah wrote this prophetic text as a song to be sung. It tells of the goodness of God in difficult times. Isaiah wanted to challenge the people to put their trust in the one true God.

There are times when we’re going through a difficult season of life. Often, it’s after God has helped us that we thank Him. But this song can be an encouragement to us. Long ago, the people anticipated God would come to their rescue and sang the song as if it had already happened. We can do that, too.

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| **QUESTION**  How would you say verse [3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is26.3) in your own words? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does perfect peace look like for you? |

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| **QUESTION**  Do you think that thanking God prior to seeing victory brings us peace? How? |

**Reflect**

Similarly, in [Exodus 14:13–14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ex14.13-14) Moses told the people leaving Egypt that the Lord would fight for them. Moses said this to the people as they were being chased by the Egyptian army. Most likely, you won’t be chased by an army, but your struggles are just as real. Note how God, through Moses, wanted the people to react to this difficult moment in their life. He wanted them to stay calm. That is usually easier said than done. Yet, there must be truth to this because God wanted the people to know that He fought for them.

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| **QUESTION**  How can we grow in trusting God and learn to stay calm during tough moments? |

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| **QUESTION**  What does it mean to fix our thoughts on God, especially in difficult times? |

**Activate**

Take a moment to share [Isaiah 26:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is26.3) with a friend going through a tough time in life. Let them know that you read this encouraging verse and wanted to encourage them with God’s Word.

**Pray**

Dear God, please help me to learn to trust You more than ever. Help me to fix my thoughts on You, especially during difficult times in my life. Help me to realize that You are fighting battles for me, and I can stay calm knowing this. Please help my friends who are also going through difficulty right now. Help me see the right opportunities to be an encouragement to them. Amen.