



## NEXT STOP... ~~ROME~~ MALTA!

Open it

1. Have you ever had to take an unexpected detour that turned out to be pretty cool? Where did you end up? What did you do there?

## Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 28:1-16

2. What did the Maltese natives think of Paul when he was bitten by the snake and survived?
3. How did Paul take advantage of his time on the island of Malta?
4. What happened when Paul arrived in Rome?



## Day 3

### TODAY'S THEME: MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Read Acts 28:3–6

After escaping a dangerous shipwreck, Paul was then bitten by a viper after throwing some wood into a fire. When the Maltese saw this, they assumed that Paul must have been a murderer because he couldn't escape justice — if he's taken a life, his life must be taken. But when Paul didn't keel over dead, it caused the people to think perhaps they had been wrong about him. Maybe he wasn't a murderer after all! Instead, they reasoned that Paul must be a god!

Oh, how they couldn't be more wrong. It could have been so easy for Paul to take this new title and run with it. Who knows what he could have gotten from them? But instead, Paul sought to serve them and their needs.

**8. How could Paul have abused the Maltese's false assessment of who he was?**

**9. How should we respond when people give us way too much credit or glory in a situation?**

**I HAVE A QUESTION!** ✎ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray for humility to not overestimate yourself—that you will give God all the credit and glory that He is due in your life. Look for opportunities to point people to Him!

## Day 4

### TODAY'S THEME: MAKING LEMONADE

#### Read Acts 28:8–10

You kind of have to feel for Paul. It seems like this dude couldn't catch a break! All he wants to do is tell people about Jesus, and all that seems to come his way is trouble and more trouble. The Jews want him dead, the Romans keep him in custody FOREVER, he finally sets sail for Rome and gets caught in a storm and gets in a shipwreck, he washes up on some strange island then gets bitten by a snake and is stuck there for a few months for winter. Wow! It could have been so easy for Paul to throw in the towel and just think that perhaps God wasn't calling him to Rome after all because things weren't going so well.

But despite all these trials, Paul looks for the golden opportunities that each one presented. This time, he got to bring healing to people who really needed it! It started with Publius' dad, who had been really sick, and it turned into all the people on the island who had diseases came and were cured. You never know how God is going to use the setbacks in your life to accomplish His will. Just because things don't go your way, in your timing, doesn't mean God isn't still working. Maybe things aren't going according to plan because in fact God is working!

**10. Despite all the trials and set-backs, how have you seen God at work in Paul's life over the course of the last couple chapters in Acts, including this one?**

**11. How can you maintain hope in God's plan when things don't seem to go your way?**

**I HAVE A QUESTION!** ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray for patience and understanding to see God's plan unfolding in your life in God's ways and in God's timing. Don't rush what God is doing in your life. Ask Him to help give you faith to walk through the uncertainties with Him!

## Day 5

### TODAY'S THEME: GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES

#### Read Acts 28:11–16

It's been a long time coming for Paul to actually get to Rome. With all the trouble he has had getting here, I'm sure he was thrilled to finally set foot in Rome. Despite the crazy journey of getting there, God has been faithful to His promises. God had told Paul back in Acts 23 that he would testify in Rome, and God doesn't fall through on His word! God promised Paul that he and all the sailors on the ship would survive, and they did. God is so faithful to keep His promises.

In the middle of the circumstances, it may seem doubtful, if not even impossible that God will keep His promises to us, but He always does. It's important for us to always remember what God has promised us, especially when the going gets tough, because in the hard times, it's God and His Word we need to rely on most!

**12. Imagine you're Paul arriving in Rome. How would you feel when you finally got there?**

**13. What are some of God's promises that give you hope and assurance today?**

**I HAVE A QUESTION!** ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

**PRAYER GUIDE** ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Thank the Lord for His many promises to us and pray that He will always give you faith to trust in them!

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Note: This study was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson. [www.villagebible.org](http://www.villagebible.org)