

Together @ Home

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Paul arriving in Malta.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Acts 28 v 1–11

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Paul on the island of Malta. Help us to be like Paul, trusting you even when things don't go the way we expect.

Just like Paul help us to show and teach others around us what you are like. Help us to be a blessing and encouragement to all those we meet.

We pray for all those in the world fighting illness, that you would be with them and those looking after them. We pray for an end to the Coronavirus.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What different ways that God helped Paul can you find in the story?

Paul had arrived in a strange place, God had already protected him and everybody on the boat during the shipwreck but He continued to look after and protect Paul. God sent people to look after Paul and the crew when they are arrived, he stopped him being poisoned by a snake and he used him to heal many people.

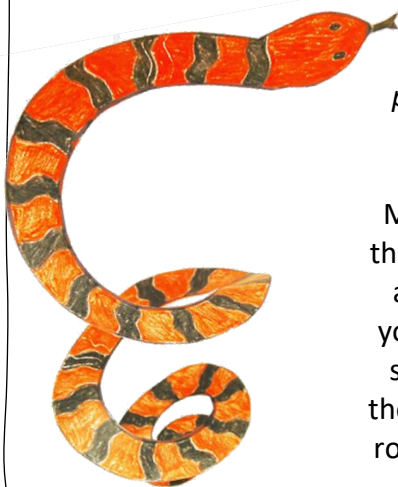
Being shipwrecked on an island might seem like a terrible thing to happen but with God on his side Paul turned it into a positive experience. Three months after his arrival when he set off again he had been given everything that was needed for the journey!

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a difficult time in your life which you now look back on as a good and positive learning experience?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Colouring pens/pencils/crayons, a sheet of paper, a plate, scissors, string



Make your own swirly snake like the one in the story. Draw around a plate, try to find one that fills your whole sheet of paper. Cut a spiral from shape all the way to the middle of the circle. You could round off the head end to make it look more snake like.

Decorate the snake with any pattern you would like then add the string so that you can hang your snake up somewhere and watch it spiral in the breeze!



A verse to remember / Prayer Activity

Mark 16 v 15–18

Jesus said to his followers, "Go everywhere in the world, and tell the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved, but anyone who does not believe will be punished.

And those who believe will be able to do these things as proof: They will use my name to force out demons. They will speak in new languages. They will pick up snakes and drink poison without being hurt. They will touch the sick, and the sick will be healed."

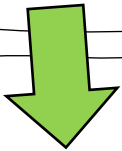
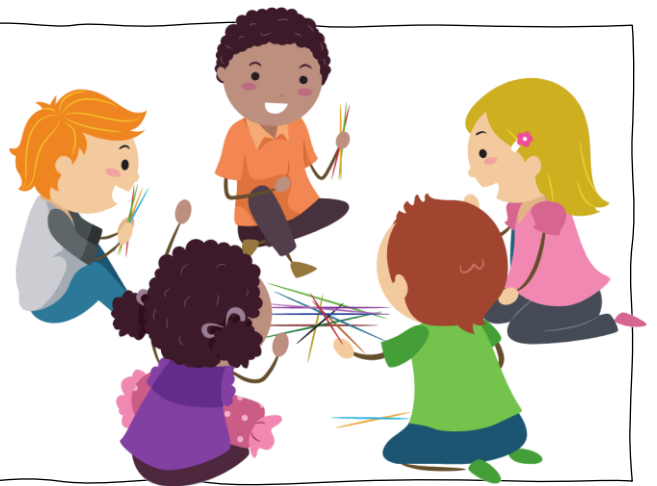
This passage comes from the book of Mark, one of the Gospels that tells the story of Jesus. How many of the things that Jesus promised can you find in the today's story about Paul in Malta? This is quite a long passage to try and learn so why not use it instead as a prayer wish list. Which of these things that Jesus said his followers would be able to do would you like to do?

Family Activity 2

You will need: Pencils or sticks

Play a game of pick up sticks together, place the pencils or sticks in a pile and take it in turns to try and pick one up without letting any of the other sticks move. If one moves then your turn is up! If you manage to collect a stick without moving the others you get another go.

Who can collect the most sticks by the end?



Active Prayer

Turn your game of pick up sticks into a "pick up prayer" – if you have coloured pencils why not give each a prayer topic or write the names of friends or family members onto the sticks you are using.

Active Prayer 2

Why not find a map of the world and look for Malta together?

Take it in turns to close your eyes and point at a country then spend some time praying for the people and leaders of the country.



Pray especially for those who are suffering because of the Pandemic.

Helping Older Children

Because the Bible contains so many stories of successful healings and miracles it can be difficult and frustrating to pray for healing in our own world and not see an instant miracle.

Romans 12:12 tells us "**Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times.**"

Remind children that these stories are there to bring us hope, that the God who performed miracles through people in the Bible is the same God we know today.

We may not understand why God does not respond instantly to prayers or why he does not immediately bring an end to this Pandemic but we can put our hope in God, wait patiently and continue to pray even in difficult times.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Mark 16 v 18

They will pick up snakes and drink
poison without being hurt.

They will touch
the sick, and
the sick will
be healed."

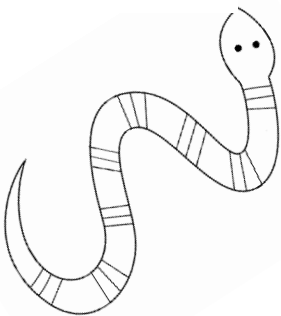
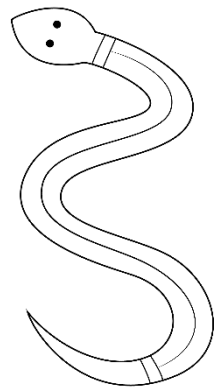
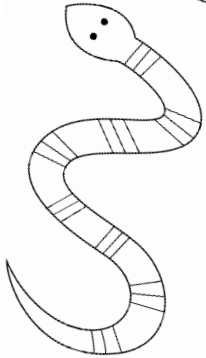
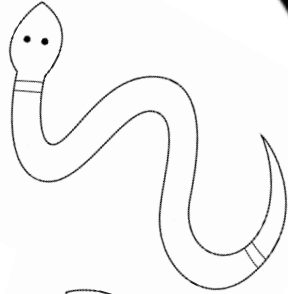


ACTS 28:5

What do you think the snake looked like which bit Paul?

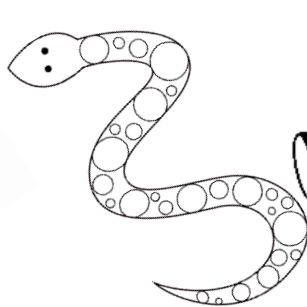
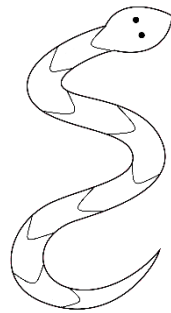
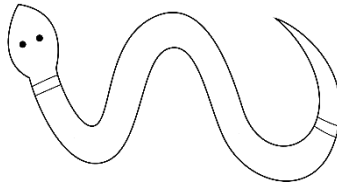
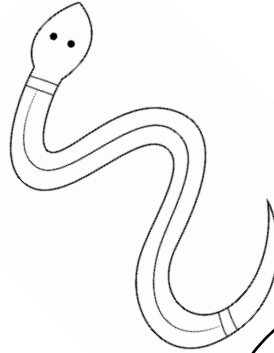
Design a pattern for the snake.

PUZZLE SHEET



Can you match each snake with their partner by colouring them the same.

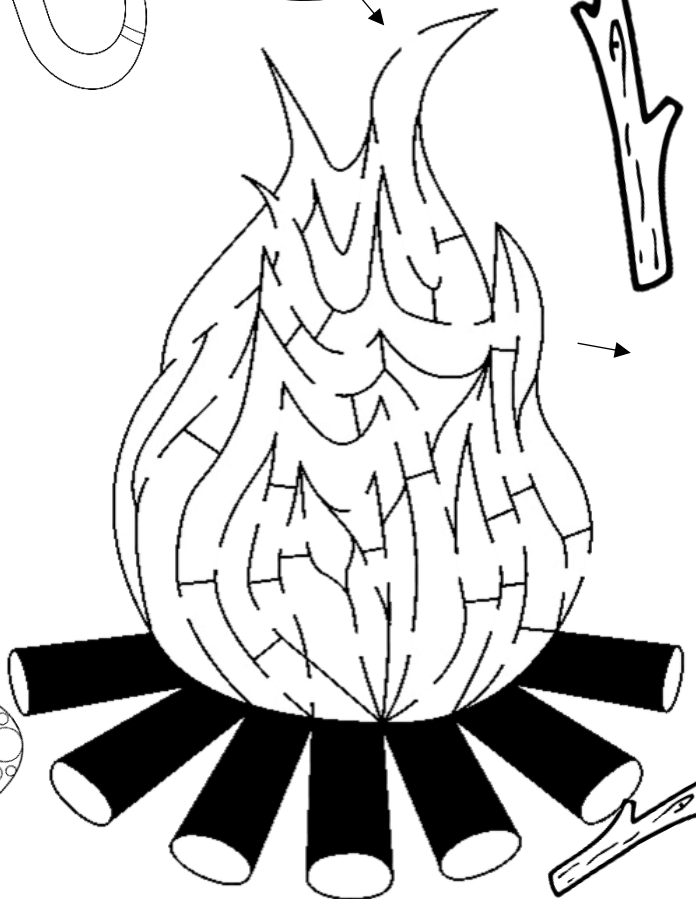
Which snake is the odd one out?



Paul was collecting sticks when he found the snake.

How many sticks can you find hidden on this page?

Can you find your way through the fire maze?



There are 6 sticks hidden on the page.