

## **December 1**

### Acts 27:27-44

This passage tells of a shipwreck as Paul was in route to Rome.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The shipwreck had to have been a frightening experience, and yet Paul remained calm. Can you think of a time when you experienced something frightening? What happened? Was there a person near you who remained calm?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, Paul was able to remain calm and give thanks to you, even in the midst of the storm, because of his faith. When a frightening situation arises, I pray that I, too, will be faithful and possibly even be a calming influence on the people around me. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **December 2**

### Acts 28:1-16

These verses tell of the island where they landed and the welcome they received.

#### *Question to Consider:*

The people of Malta found themselves welcoming and assisting some unexpected guests. Have you ever had to do that? Were you glad, or was it an imposition?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, I know that I am always welcome in your presence and I thank you for that. I pray that I always have a welcoming spirit and that I will be like the people of Malta in Paul's time, welcoming and glad to serve. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **December 3**

### Acts 28:17-31

This passage tells of Paul's arrival in Rome and his preaching there.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Whenever Paul had an audience, he talked to them about what God has done in Jesus Christ. Do you? What would have to happen in order for you to be more willing to share your faith? Talking about your faith is critically important, but what are some other ways you can share your faith?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, you have done so much for me through Jesus Christ. You have given me the promise of abundant, eternal life. I thank you, and I pray that I will be willing to share that news, in whatever way is appropriate, with the people you put in my path. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

## **December 4**

### Romans 12:9-21

With this reading, we begin to explore a few passages from Paul's letters. In these verses from Romans 12, Paul offers instructions for faithful living.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Paul gives many instructions in these verses about how faithful people should live. Which of his instructions comes easily for you? Which is especially difficult? He concludes by saying that we are to overcome evil with good. Is that possible?

#### *Prayer:*

Gracious God, it is only with your help that I will be able to overcome evil with good. On my own, I am tainted by sin, but through the power of your presence through the Holy Spirit, I will be able to respond to evil appropriately, and seek to overcome it with good. I pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

## **December 5**

### Romans 16:1-16

In these verses, Paul sends greetings to many people (Don't worry about whether or not you can pronounce the names).

#### *Question to Consider:*

Paul sent greetings to people who made a difference in his life of faith. Who has made a difference in your life of faith?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, I thank you for the people who have influenced my relationship with you (*name them*). I pray for them today, and I pray that I will always be willing to let you use me to touch the life of another person. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.