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And the Good News Is...



UPCI
YOUTH MINISTRIES

PREVIEW

There are times when we just need some good news, something that will brighten up our day. Maybe it's a friendly text, a supportive comment on social media, or even a hand-written note encouraging us. Human beings are designed to need good news in their lives. Good news keeps us going.

PRAISE

Tell about a time when you received some good news that turned your day around. (Good grade, new brother/sister, increased allowance, etc.)

PARABLE

In April 2015, Dana Perino, former Press Secretary for President George W. Bush, published a book titled *And the Good News Is*. It is an autobiography describing how Perino came from a small town in western USA and rose to the position of working for the President of the United States of America. She catalogues the challenges and difficulties she faced in reaching that high position. More important, the book highlights Perino's uncanny ability to find the good in any situation.

PRESENT

(Read Acts 27:23.) Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts, recounted the events that brought the apostle Paul to Rome. After making his case to Agrippa, who was a ruler in the Roman hierarchy, Paul, being Roman citizen, appealed to present his case directly to Caesar. Paul was dispatched under guard on a ship bound for Rome. The season for ideal sailing was past as the winter season had arrived. Nevertheless, the captain sailed northward, skirting the island of Cyprus and putting into port at Myra, a city along the south coast of Asia Minor. There they transferred to a ship bound for Rome but were hampered by a strong headwind. The captain changed course to Crete, and they sailed into a harbor on the south shore called Fair Havens. Paul, possibly prompted by the Holy Spirit, warned that they should winter there, as they would certainly encounter even greater danger if they departed. But the captain argued that contrary to the name of the harbor, the haven wasn't "fair"; they would still be exposed to winter winds and weather.

Paul persuaded the Roman officer that they should try to make it to a better harbor, so they set sail again. It wasn't long before they were hit by a typhoon that Luke called "Euroclydon." Unable to control the ship, the captain lashed the rudder in place and let the ship go where it would. The sailors bound ropes around the hull in hopes of keeping the ship seaworthy. As the storm raged on, they began throwing things overboard like the cargo and the ship's gear. No one had eaten for days.

The storm continued to rage, and it seemed as if there would never be an end of the battering, the constant pelting of rain, continuous up and down as the ship was tossed by the waves. There was no way to tell where they were, or in which direction they were headed because there was no sun to guide them and no moon or stars to mark their position. They just simply fought hour after hour to stay afloat.

PRACTICE

(Read Acts 27:22.) After many days without food their strength was almost gone and their will to live was depleted. Paul stepped forward and said, "Men, we can't overcome this storm; this ship is going down. But there's good news! Everyone is going to be all right. We will still face some difficult conditions, but no one is going to perish." With the boat still heaving over the waves and shuddering in the wind, Paul said, "We are going to get through this. We are going to win in the end."

Someone listening today may be in the middle of a difficult time. But have you ever thought that maybe the enemy has driven you into the place where God wants you to be? Your life's storm looks rough and hopeless. It seems to be the hardest thing you've ever gone through. The good news is, you are going to get through this situation! The outlook may be bleak, but the end is determined. You are going to win!

PRAY

Thank You, Lord, that You have the end determined from the beginning. You have us right where you want us to be. Help us to trust You through the storm and the trials. Help us to remember You are fighting for us. Thank You for having our best interests in mind.

We ask today that You give us the strength and determination we need to make it through this storm because we have heard the good news; You are with us and will never forsake us. Thank You for everything You have done and are doing in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

PLUS

If time allows, ask your club members to talk about a time when they had to trust Jesus to get through a storm in their life.