

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 70 - Ashore on Malta - [Acts 28:1-10](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

All Safe on Malta

28When we were safe on shore, we learned we were on the island of Malta.

²The local people were unusually kind to us. And because it was raining and cold, they built a fire and made us all feel welcome.

³Paul helped by gathering a bundle of sticks. But when he placed them on the fire, a poisonous viper was forced out by the heat, and latched onto his hand.

⁴When the local people saw the snake hanging there from his hand, they said to one another, “This man must be a murderer, and even though he escaped death at sea, *divine* justice won’t allow him to live.”

⁵But Paul just shook the snake off into the fire and wasn’t harmed at all.

⁶The people, however, expected to see him swell up or drop dead. But after they’d watched him for a long time and saw that he hadn’t been harmed in any way, they changed their minds and exclaimed, “He’s a god!”

⁷The governor of the island was a man named Publius. He welcomed us to his estate, which was in the area, and for three days *he graciously fed and* housed us.

⁸Now it happened that the father of Publius was sick in bed, suffering from recurring attacks of fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.

⁹When this happened, the rest of the sick people on the island came and were healed.

¹⁰In return they honored us with many gifts. And when we set sail, they gave us all the supplies we needed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 70 - Ashore on Malta - [Acts 28:1-10](#)

1017. Where were the people shipwrecked? ([28:1](#))

1018.How did the islanders treat Paul and the others? ([28:2](#))

1019. What did the islanders do to welcome the victims of the shipwreck? ([28:2](#))
1020. What happened to Paul when he was building the fire? ([28:3](#))
1021. Seeing that Paul was bitten by the snake, what did the islanders conclude? ([28:4](#))
1022. When Paul was unaffected by the snake's bite, how did the people of Malta show their superstition? ([28:5-6](#))
1023. What was distinctive about the home Paul and the others were near? ([28:7](#))
1024. What was Publius's title? ([28:7](#))
1025. What did the governor do for Paul and his companions? ([28:7](#))
1026. How did Paul help Publius's father? ([28:8](#))
1027. What happened when word of a healing spread? ([28:9](#))
1028. What was the effect of what Paul did for Publius's father? ([28:10](#))

Lesson 71 - Arrival at Rome - [Acts 28:11-16](#)

Paul Arrives at Rome

¹¹Three months after our shipwreck, we sailed in an Alexandrian ship, decorated with the figureheads of Castor and Pollux,* a ship that had wintered in the island.

Acts 28:11 – “Figureheads of Castor and Pollux.*” These were twin sons of Jupiter and Leda in Roman mythology, said to be patrons of sailors and athletes. Their figures were evidently painted on the prow of this ship, or may have been carved figures.

¹²We landed at Syracuse, and stayed there three days.

¹³Then after some tacking* we arrived at Rhegium. The next day the south wind started blowing, and a day later we arrived at Puteoli.

Acts 28:13 – “Then after some tacking.*” Literally *after going around*.

¹⁴There we discovered some of the Lord's followers, who invited us to stay with them a week. From there we went on to Rome.

¹⁵When the followers in Rome heard we were coming, some of them came as far as the town of the Market of Appius* on the Appian Way to welcome us, while others came as far as the Three Hotels.* Paul thanked God when he saw them, and was greatly encouraged.

Acts 28:15 – “The Market of Appius.*” About 40 miles from Rome. “The Three Hotels.*” About 30 miles from Rome.

¹⁶When we arrived in Rome, Captain Julius turned the prisoners over to the captain of the guard. But Paul was permitted to live wherever he wanted, with a soldier guarding him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 71 - Arrival at Rome - [Acts 28:11-16](#)

1029. For how long did the crew stay on Malta? Why? ([28:11](#))
1030. When Paul and the others finally set sail, what kind of ship did they use? ([28:11](#))
1031. What was the first stop for Paul and the others along their continued journey to Rome? How long did the stop last? ([28:12](#))
1032. How long did the group stay at Syracuse? ([28:12](#))
1033. What port along the Italian coastline marked the next stop? ([28:13](#))
1034. When the group arrived at Puteoli, what did they do? ([28:13-14](#))
1035. After the week-long visit with Christians, what was the next destination for Paul and his group? ([28:14](#))
1036. What did the Christians at Rome do when they heard of Paul’s coming? ([28:15](#))
1037. How did Paul feel when he saw his Christian brothers? ([28:15](#))
1038. Because Paul was a trusted prisoner, what was he allowed to do in Rome? ([28:16](#))

Lesson 72 - Paul Preaches at Rome Under Guard - [Acts 28:17-31](#)

Paul Witnesses for Jesus in Rome

¹⁷After only three days, Paul invited the local Judean leaders to meet with him. When they arrived he said, “Men and brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, still I was handed over to the Romans in Jerusalem and have become their prisoner.

¹⁸“After the Jewish leaders had cross-examined me in court, the Romans wanted to release me, because they couldn’t see any reason why I should be put to death.

19“But when the Jews objected, I had no choice but to appeal to Caesar. But I did not do this in order to level counter-charges against my own people.

20“I called for you because I wanted to meet you and explain to you that I am chained because of the hope of Israel.*”

Acts 28:20 – “The hope of Israel.*” The *hope of Israel* is the Messiah, the Christ, and resurrection to eternal life through Him.

21“We haven’t received any correspondence from Judea about you,” they replied, “nor have any who have come from there given a bad report or spoken against you.

22“But we would like to hear what your views are in regard to these Christians. All we know is that people everywhere are speaking against them.”

23So they set a date, and a large number showed up that day at the place where Paul was staying. Then from morning until evening he went into a very intensive and earnest explanation as he taught them about the Kingdom of God. He also did his best to convince them about Jesus by pointing out the many places in the Law of Moses and the Prophets that refer to Him.*

Acts 28:23 – “Many places in the Law of Moses and the Prophets that refer to Him.*” Paul may have pointed them to Genesis 3:15; 49:10; Dt. 18:15; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7; 53:1-12; Dan. 7:13-14; 9:24-26; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9, etc.

24Some were convinced by what he said, but others continued to disbelieve.

25So on that note of disagreement among themselves, they began to leave, but not before Paul had made one final statement, saying, “The Holy Spirit certainly spoke the truth to our ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, when he said:

26*Go to these people and tell them, ‘On the matter of listening, you will indeed continue to listen, but you won’t understand. And in regard to looking, you will continue to look, but you won’t gain knowledge.’*

27*This is true because their hearts have become calloused. They can scarcely hear with their ears, and they’ve closed their eyes. They’ve done this so they won’t be able to see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand from their hearts and be changed, and thereby be healed by Me. (Isa. 6:9-10)*

28“So I want you to know that God’s salvation has now been offered to the Gentiles, and they will listen.”

29After he finished his remarks, the Jews left, arguing intensely among themselves.

30For two whole years Paul lived in his own rented house, and always welcomed everyone who came to visit him.

³¹He openly taught them about the Lord Jesus, the Messiah, and the Kingdom of God, and no one tried to stop him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 72 - Paul Preaches at Rome Under Guard - [Acts 28:17-31](#)

1039. With whom did Paul first speak in Rome? ([28:17](#))
1040. In his presentation to the Jewish leaders, what significant points did Paul make? ([28:17-20](#))
1041. What did Paul mean by "the hope of Israel"? ([28:20](#))
1042. What kind of response did Paul get from the leaders? ([28:21-22](#))
1043. How did the Jewish leaders in Rome show increasing interest in the apostle and his message? ([28:23-24](#))
1044. What did Paul do all day long while meeting with the Jewish leaders? ([28:23](#))
1045. How did the Jews in Rome respond to Paul's teaching? ([28:24-25](#))
1046. To whom did Paul ascribe Isaiah's words? ([28:25](#))
1047. How did Paul apply the words of Isaiah to his audience? ([28:26-27](#))
1048. What prediction did Paul make about the future? ([28:28](#))
1049. Though the Jews had turned away from Christ, what group had God promised to tell of His salvation? ([28:28](#))
1050. What did Paul do for two years in Rome? ([28:30-31](#))

The Last Days Bible – Copyright by Life Messengers

Questions created by Lesson Maker a product of the Navigators.

