



## 9. Through many dangers....

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) 'To boldly go....'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. Following on from last week we continue with Paul's story, through many journeys that he took in his adventurous life.*



### How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, the focus is on seeing how Paul has changed from the character we met last week, and exploring the risks he was prepared to take as he carried the Gospel (good news) wherever he went. We revisit some words that we heard earlier this term

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- Today's rucksack object: a map**
- You will also need 6 plastic water bottles, empty, for messages to be inserted into. Label the bottles 1-6, and insert messages in, using the order below (& included in the story script on p3). In order to be able to take them out easily, roll each & clip with a paperclip. You can scatter these around the room if desired: **DANGER!!; 2. PRISON!!; 3. TRIAL BY ROMANS!!; 4. SHIPWRECKED!!; 5. SNAKEBITE!!; 6. HOUSE ARREST!!**
- For your reflective area this week**, you will need an old map cut into strips (or printed from p4) and a large 1-litre plastic bottle, empty, washed and dried, with the lid removed and recycled.

### Gathering:

**Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:**

Use the greeting for this term



**Leader:** We are on this journey together...

**Children:** We are friends along the way...

**ALL:** May God go with us.

### BSL interpretation:

Sign for 'way' (nearest to the idea of 'journey'): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for 'friends': [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

### Engaging:

- Slide 3: To boldly go.....** Today we are going on several journeys, continuing with the story of Paul's life.
- Slide 4:** If you recall, he became a Christian when he had a vision of Jesus as he was travelling on a journey to Damascus, in Syria. He was so changed that he spent the rest of his life travelling around (about 10,000 miles!) to tell as many people as he could about what Jesus had done.
- Slide 5: What's in the rucksack today?** *Open your rucksack and get the map out. Talk about why they're useful – share stories of being lost / finding your way*
- Slide 6:** Many of the journeys that Paul took were dangerous, and we're going to hear about some of them using these *[show water bottle]* – but with messages in, just like you'd use if you were sending an 'SOS' to be rescued from a desert island. *[Use the bottles in order, with the script on p3 for some clarification. If you want to read the original stories, the Bible references are given]*
- Slide 28:** What happened after this, no-one is quite sure, and Paul may have been allowed to visit some of the churches that he had set up, but we do know that he wrote lots of letters to the very first church leaders, encouraging them and giving them good advice. In one of them, to the church in Jerusalem, he



wrote these words, words we've already used this term: **"Run the race with perseverance! Keep on going and don't give up!"**

He wasn't talking about an actual race, but the feeling that life is sometimes hard, like running in a race and getting tired. I wonder if you've ever felt like that? I wonder how often Paul felt like that himself?

#### Slide 29: Responding (and words for worship):

Let's be still and quiet together now....

...in the stillness, let's think about the things that we've heard today, about Paul and the dangers he faced to tell others about Jesus....

....about how he kept on going and didn't give up....

**....I wonder why it was so important to Paul that he told others about Jesus?....**

....many times in his life, Paul asked that God would be with him on his journey....

**....I wonder what this might mean for us, today?....**

**.....I wonder what difficulties we might be facing or things we might need help with?....**

....use these few moments of stillness to bring them to God, or to think....

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us to put some of these ideas into practice. Make the prayer your own if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.

#### Slide 30: Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for the inspiration of Paul – how he trusted you and didn't give up.

When hard times come, please help us to keep on going and not give up. Be with us we pray.

Slide 31: Amen

#### Sending:

#### Slide 17: Use this term's leaving words

Leader: We have journeyed together today.

As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

**ALL: ...May God go with us.**

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

#### To sing / listen to:

[God is watching over you](#) (BBC)



#### Ideas for classroom reflection: map strips

Cut up strips of old maps (or print the version that's on p.4) Leave these in your reflective area with the empty bottle.

Paul's life was full of adventure and danger, but he trusted God.

Talk together about where you saw this in the story.

Do you sometimes feel like giving up? Are there things you feel are really hard to do?

Write a message or a prayer on a strip of map, then post it into the bottle. As you do, ask God to help you, if you'd like to.



'To boldly go.....!'

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# Through many dangers....with links to slides

## **Slide 7: Bottle 1. DANGER!! [Acts 14:8-28] (LYSTRA)**

Crowds tried to hurt Paul because of the things he was saying about God, and they threw him out of the city.

**Slide 8:** And so Paul began one of several journeys around the Mediterranean, telling everyone about Jesus, who had changed his life. *[follow the arrows from 1-9 to see where he went]*

## **Slide 9: Bottle 2. PRISON! [Acts 16:11-40] (PHILIPPI)**

**Slide 10:** In Philippi, Paul was put in prison. That night, as he and his friend Silas were praying and singing, God shook the earth with an earthquake that opened all the doors of the prison and shook the chains off the prisoners. Although they were free,

**Slide 11:** Paul and Silas didn't want the jailer to get into trouble because they'd escaped, so they stayed behind and waited. The jailer was so impressed, he became a follower of Jesus and the leaders in Philippi let Paul and Silas go.

**Slide 12:** [Acts 18:1-18] Paul then travelled through parts of Greece. *[follow the arrows from 1-9 to see where he went]* In a Greek city, named Corinth....

**Slide 13:** ...Paul had a dream in which God spoke to him and told him that he would keep them safe, no matter what.

## **Slide 14: Bottle 3. TRIAL BY ROMANS!! [Acts 21:27-23:35; also Acts 24&25] (JERUSALEM)**

**Slide 15:** Paul then travelled back to the church in Jerusalem.

**Slide 16:** There, he was arrested and sent before the Romans to be tried – and punished. The Roman governor sent Paul to Rome.

## **Slide 17: Bottle 4. SHIPWRECKED!! [Acts 27:1-44] (MALTA)**

**Slide 18:** On his way to Rome, a storm blew in,

**Slide 19:** and the boat began to sink.

**Slide 20:** Paul told everyone on the boat what God had told him, that no-one would be harmed, & that the storm would shipwreck them on an island.

## **Slide 21: Bottle 5. SNAKEBITE!! [Acts 28:1-6] (MALTA)**

**Slide 22:** On the island of Malta, where they were shipwrecked,

**Slide 23:** Paul was bitten by a snake, but the poison didn't harm him! He then continued on his way to Rome.

## **Slide 24: Bottle 6. HOUSE ARREST!! [Acts 28:11-31; letters to Timothy & Titus] (ROME)**

**Slide 25:** In Rome, Paul was put under house arrest, which meant he wasn't allowed to leave the place where he was staying.

**Slide 26:** People think that Paul lived like this for about 2 years, waiting for his trial as a Roman citizen.

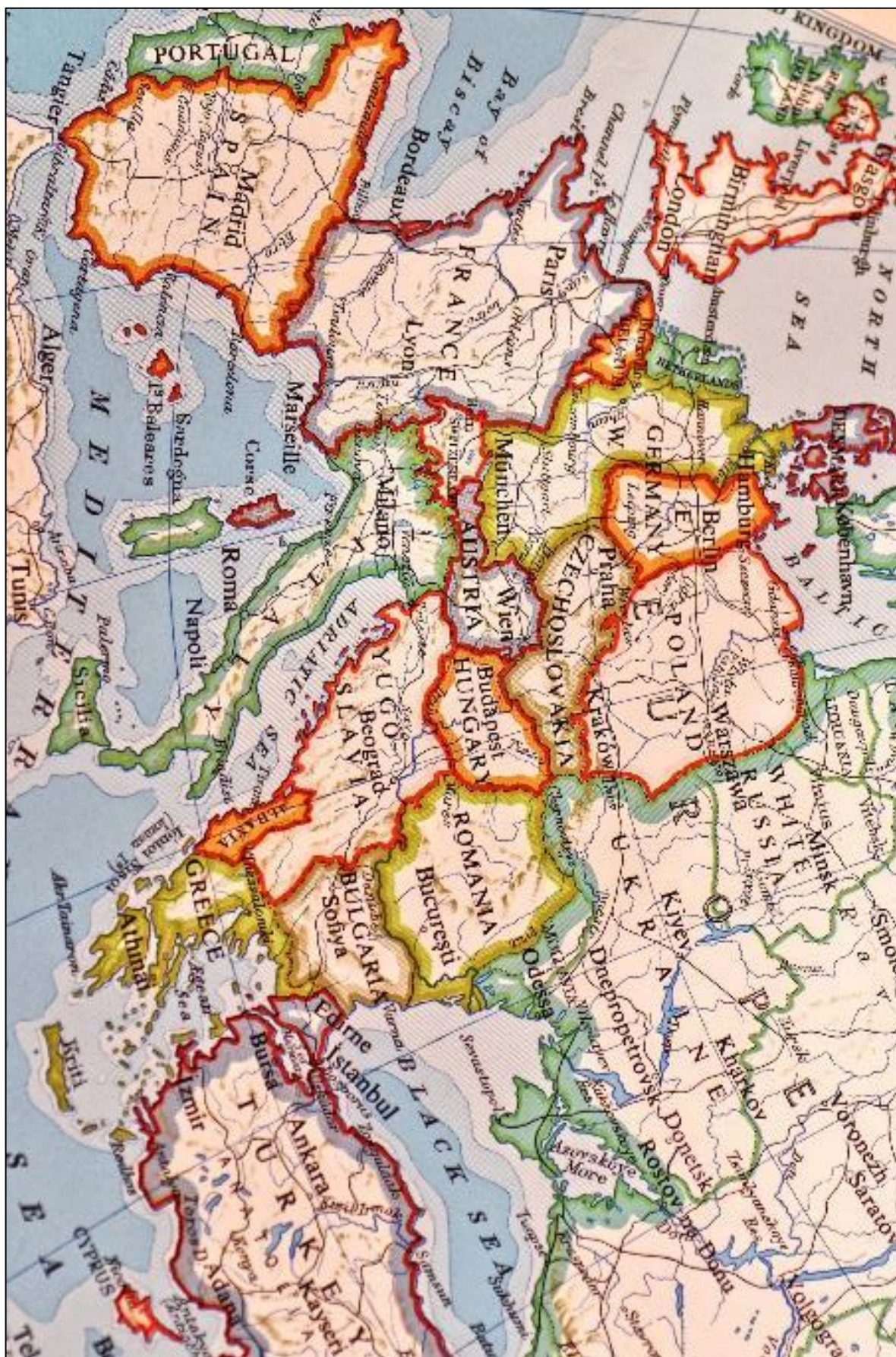
**Slide 27:** Excavations in Rome uncovered the place where Paul may have been kept prisoner during this time – as you can see, it's a bit less like a 'house', and more like a





dungeon! [This is called the Mamertine Prison, and can be seen just outside the remains of the Roman Forum]

**Reflective area resource:** Cut this map up into strips if you don't have access to old maps:



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***Paul wrote: 'Run the race with perseverance.  
Keep on going and don't give up!'***

**Paul's life was full of adventure and danger, but he trusted God. Talk together about where you saw this in the story.**

**Do you sometimes feel like giving up? Are there things you feel are really hard to do?**

**Write a message or a prayer on a strip of map, then post it into the bottle. As you do, ask God to help you, if you'd like to.**

