



Discovering Yourself in a Storm

Adapted from “Shipwrecked” series by Rod Loy.

The famous explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew of 28 men left England aboard the ship Endurance on August 8, 1914 to fulfill his dream of crossing the South Polar continent from sea to sea.

During the expedition, the ship got trapped in ice. Shackleton and his men found themselves marooned in the Antarctic for five months. They lived on top of floating ice, fed on seals and kept warm by playing hockey and dog-sled racing. In April 1916, Shackleton and 5 of his men set off in three small lifeboats they had recovered, to find help on Elephant Island. The six men spent 16 days crossing 1,300 km of ocean. The six men landed on an uninhabited part of the island so their last hope was to cross 26 miles of treacherous mountains and glaciers until they finally reached a whaling station where they found help.

Shackleton returned to rescue the men on Elephant Island and amazingly, apart from some missing toes from frostbites, not one member of the 28-man crew was lost.¹

Shipwrecks in life are different than the movies. In real life, a shipwreck results in death, destruction, and pain. If you were to ask the survivors of the Titanic, they would tell you that shipwrecks are not fun. In life, men find themselves in a storm and when it is over, they find themselves surrounded by devastation, destruction, and debris. How men respond to a shipwreck that is their fault and how they survive shipwrecks that are not their fault is paramount.

¹ “The Real Castaways: True Stories Of Being Stranded On A Deserted Island: Earnest Shackleton & Crew,” May 26, 2011, <https://www.boaterexam.com/blog/2011/05/real-castaways.aspx> (accessed July 21, 2017).

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COURAGE

C1: When you were growing up, did you ever dream of living in some remote isolated place? Write your thoughts.

C2: Describe a time when your life was shipwrecked and it was your fault. How did you get to that point?

C3: Describe a time when your life was shipwrecked and it wasn't your fault. What were your thoughts and emotions?

STRENGTH

S1: Paul was about to get on a boat bound for Italy. The ship he was on ended up in a storm and subsequently shipwrecked. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:1–9 (ESV)

- What led them into being shipwrecked?
- Have you ever pushed past danger signs in your life? What happened?

S2: When you push past danger signs, you are headed for disaster. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:10–11 (ESV)

- What led them into being shipwrecked?
- Have you ever listened to the wrong voice in your life? What happened?

S3: People do things in a group setting they would never do on their own. When you listen to the wrong voice, you make bad decisions. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:12 (ESV)

- What also led them into being shipwrecked?
- Have you ever followed the crowd and it ended in disaster? What happened?

S4: When you ignore the warning signs or tune out the right voices, you are headed for disaster. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:13–15 (ESV)

- What also lead them into being shipwrecked?

- Have you ever trusted your feelings only to not have your plans end the way you anticipated? What happened?

ENDURANCE

E1: When you make bad decisions, you ultimately find yourself in a storm, headed for a shipwreck. Bad decisions become bad directions. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:16–17 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are two things you can glean about being in a storm?
- Have you ever been in a storm where you could not see your way out? What happened?

E2: When we are in a storm and everything around us is falling apart, we tend to blame our situation on the wind and the storm. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:17–18 (ESV)

- From these verses, what two things can you glean about storms?
- Have you ever been in a storm and lost something valuable? What was the price you paid: physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually?

E3: When you are in a storm it feels like it will never end. Read and answer the following.

Acts 27:20–21 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean about the effects of a storm?
- Have you ever been in a storm that felt like it would never end? What happened?

