

**Shipwrecked**  
**July 8, 2018 (Transmitter Campus)**  
**Lynn Haven UMC**

**Introduction**

On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved." So the soldiers cut the ropes that held the lifeboat and let it drift away. (Acts 27:27-32 NIV)

At one point or another in our lives, we can be certain that the storms will come. And sometimes find ourselves overwhelmed by the truth that when it rains, it pours! So how can we equip ourselves to handle the downpour and avoid becoming "shipwrecked" by those circumstances that we cannot control? This week, to piggy back on to this year's VBS theme, "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus", we will talk about how being anchored in Jesus Christ can deliver us from the fear we don't have to feel when the unpredictable storms of life begin to swell.

**Digging Deeper**

**"Anchors" of the Christian Faith**

**God's WORD**

- Have you ever been distressed or depressed and found comfort from a verse that popped in your head or a devotional you "just so happened" to pick up? God has a way of placing those exactly perfect messages in our paths whether we receive them from a caring friend, a well-timed verse of the day email, or diving into our Bibles. It is crucial to make time each day to hide His Word in your heart so we will always be prepared to call upon His message of truth, love and way toward peace. Share how you have been strengthened in a difficult time by anchoring yourself in the Word. The peace God leaves us with transcends our understanding, but without question provides solace to those who cling to His promises.

**Passionate WORSHIP**

- Have you ever noticed when you throw yourself into worship you tend to forget all those pesky things that are weighing you down? This is one of God's priceless gifts to us. He knows our troubled minds and offers this intimate connection with Him as a way to abandon our need to worry, control and serve as our own god. Do you frequently spend time in passionate worship? Not just worshipping, but *passionately* worshipping the Lord? That adjective really changes the conversation doesn't it? Can you still say yes? If not, what do you think keeps you from getting there? How can those obstacles be overcome?

### **Other BELIEVERS**

- Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. In case you didn't know it, we need each other! God never meant for us to walk this earth alone. From the beginning He created us to be in relationship with Him and with others. As a matter of fact, it was so important to Him that after creating Adam He declared, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18 NIV) If the will of God is for us to be in relationship, it makes no sense to live a life of solitude. Do you struggle with maintaining lasting relationships? Share an experience you've had where a relationship helped get you through a rough period. After all, no man (or woman) is an island!

### **Resurrection HOPE**

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith. Without that blessed hope, we are like untethered ships floating in a raging sea. As Christians, we trust that Jesus has conquered death and the same power that allowed that to happen lives in us today. This is of course not derived from our own ability or goodness or strength. No, we trust in the One who made a way when there was no way. How does resurrection hope carry you when life's storms are raging? What do you think happens when people lose their hope? Hope is a powerful weapon and we must make sure to always be prepared to give the reason for ours.

### **Conclusion**

What are your anchors? What keeps you from crashing upon the rocks when storms batter your life? What if we all spent time reading the Word, doing life with each other, passionately worshipping God for who He is and resting confidently in the hope of our resurrected Savior? Sounds like a pretty good plan for avoiding a spiritual shipwreck! Our hope is in You, Lord!