

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program
Acts of the Apostle #10:
Paul Sails for Rome**

ICSB: Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
NJBC: New Jerome Biblical Commentary
SBDC: Studium Biblicum Devotional
Commentary
SBCB: Studium Biblicum Chinese Bible
CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church
JR: J. Ratzinger: Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith

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| A | <u>Introduction of Related Scripture Passages</u> | Acts 27-28 |
| B | <p><u>Paul Encounters a Storm as He Sails to Rome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars explained that Luke’s narrative follows the popular Roman and Greek traditions of epic, but it doesn’t mean that Luke’s narrative is fictional. Key Message: Not even the fierce storm and all the dangers along the journey can stop Paul from fulfilling God’s plan of witnessing for the Gospel in Rome. “Do not be afraid, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.” Paul remains as calm as Jesus during the storm. Those who have faith and live in the Holy Spirit can distinguish God’s voice and follow the guidance of the Spirit in everything they do; through their trust in God, they are able to share the message of hope with others, especially those who are living in despair and fear. | <p>Acts 27</p> <p>NJBC 44:126 Acts 27:22-25</p> <p>Acts 27:24-25</p> |
| C | <p><u>Paul on the Island of Malta</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The miracles of the viper and healing, once again, reveal God’s special grace for Paul so that His will for Paul to preach in Rome can be fulfilled. In addition, this confirms that Paul is truly an Apostle sent by Jesus who has the authority to perform miracles. | <p>Acts 28: 1-10</p> <p>NJBC 44:130 ICSB Mk 16:17-18</p> |
| D | <p><u>Paul Arrives at Rome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exact time of Christianity entering Italy is unknown; however, it is possible that Christianity is brought to Italy by the converted Jews after Peter’s public preaching. Peter might have visited Rome approximately 20 years before Paul. In Paul’s two meeting with the Jewish leaders, he has emphasized his innocence (chapters 22-27) and the main messages of Acts: since the Israelites have rejected salvation, it will be handed over to the Gentiles. According to Luke, Paul successfully arrives at Rome to preach the Gospel with God’s help despite the many challenges = this fulfills Jesus’ promise: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. This is the evangelization journey in Acts. Rome is the city where the Gentiles lived = ends of the earth; it has become the flagship of evangelization to the rest of the world. This is also a fulfillment of Is 49:6. The fact that Luke chooses not to reveal the verdict of Paul’s trial shows that Paul is not the focus, but evangelization of the Gospel is at the centre of his writing. At this point, the mission has been accomplished and the Catholic Church has been established to replace the Chosen People in OT as the inheritor to fulfill its mission. Therefore, the book ends at this point without further explanation on Paul’s fate. Stephen, Peter, James, and Paul are only instrument of the Gospel; they are not the focus of Luke’s Acts. “stayed for 2 years”, after that Paul might have visited Ephesus, Macedonia, and other places, and have blessed Titus and Timothy as the bishop of Cretan and Ephesus respectively. He was arrested later and was martyred in Rome with Peter. He had also visited Spain. | <p>Acts 28:11-31</p> <p>ICSB Acts 2:10 ICSB 12:17</p> <p>Acts 28:15-28 NJBC 44:132</p> <p>Acts 1:8</p> <p>NJBC 44:132 JR p 62</p> <p>NJBC 79:50-53</p> |

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| <p>E</p> | <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>In this session, you have learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who have faith and live in the Holy Spirit will remain calm and confident and are able to share peace and hope with people around them. • Through miracles and signs, God reveals that Paul is the Apostle sent by Jesus. • When did the Gospel enter Italy? • The purpose of Luke’s Acts is to explain what Jesus has promised in Acts 1:8 must be fulfilled, that is, the Gospel will be spread from the Israelites in Jerusalem and Samaria to the ends of the earth. • In the big picture of evangelization and establishment of the Catholic Church, everyone who is involved, including Peter and Paul, are mere instruments in salvation history. One must be cautioned against pride. • What happens to Paul after his arrival at Rome? | <p>B2</p> <p>C1</p> <p>D1</p> <p>D3</p> <p>D4</p> <p>D5</p> |
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