

TPE Kids page

Row your boat

Disaster at sea

Imagine being in a boat out on the open sea. Everywhere you looked, you would see water and waves. It would be hard to know which way to go. Ancient sailors used the sun and stars to help chart their courses. Some also watched the flight patterns of birds and even the appearance of waves.

Modern ship captains have devices that pinpoint their exact locations and provide other important information about their surroundings. But even with good technology, they sometimes make mistakes.

In 1989, the crew of an oil tanker called the *Exxon Valdez* noticed icebergs along their planned route in Alaska. Rather than steering through the icebergs, they chose to go another direction. A short time later, the ship ran aground on a reef.

The crash opened a hole in the tank holding the oil. Around 11 million gallons of the gooey black stuff spilled into the sea. That's enough oil to fill nine school gymnasiums. The oil coated the bodies of fish, sea otters, birds and other animals. Rescuers saved some of the creatures, but many others died. It was a terrible disaster.

The Bible teaches the things we say can be just as disastrous. Just as a captain uses a small rudder to steer a big ship, our

mouths can steer our lives into trouble if we aren't careful.

"A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything — or destroy it!" (James 3:4,5, *The Message*).

God gives us directions in His Word so we can make good decisions. Next time you're tempted to say something that could hurt someone, think again. Then try saying something that would please God instead.



Did you know?

Captains used to keep cats on board their ships. Crew members liked playing with the animals, but cats served a more important purpose. They killed rats that stowed away on the vessels.

Enter to win!

Be your own captain with this balloon-powered boat. Enter online by Aug. 5 at tpe.ag.org or mail an entry postmarked on or before that date to Boat Giveaway, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65802. Include a daytime phone number. You must have a parent's permission to enter.



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Adventures in Faith



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Try this!

Create a watertight boat shape from aluminum foil and tape. With an adult's permission, float it in a sink, bathtub or puddle. Test how many pennies your boat will hold before it fills with water. If you change the design, will it hold more or less?

JUST FOR laughs

What can you get from a hungry shark?
As far away as possible, hopefully.

What's the richest fish in the sea?
The goldfish.

