

*When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.*

Program B-1

## Angel Frees Peter from Prison

Acts 12:1-18

Peter Series: Lesson #5

Bible Verse: Pray for one another. James 5:16

Past Verses: Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved. Acts 2:21

We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29

Jesus said, "I am with you always." Matthew 28:20

Jesus loves me. Revelation 1:5

Bible Story for children:

Focus on: Praying for others.

Prop ideas: Toy Handcuffs and Chains (or Magician's Props)

16 Toy Soldiers

### SAMPLE STORY

King Herod did not like the Christians and their new growing church. He had James, the brother of John, killed. Herod saw that the Jewish leaders were happy about this, so he arrested Peter. Because it was the special time of Passover, the big Jewish Holiday, Herod left Peter in prison guarded by four squads of four soldiers each, or sixteen soldiers. Herod wanted to be sure that Peter could not escape before going to a public trial.

While Peter was in prison, the members of the church prayed to God for Peter. They were probably sad and worried about their friend. They knew that they could talk to God by praying. The Bible tells us that they prayed earnestly. That means that they prayed long and hard. They wanted God to take care of Peter.

The night before Peter was to go to trial, he was sound asleep between two soldiers and bound with two chains. There were guards at the entrance to the jail. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. The angel poked Peter in the side and told him to wake up. "Quick, get up," he said, and the chains just fell off of Peter's wrists! "Put on your clothes and sandals." Peter got dressed. Then the angel told him, "Wrap your coat around you and follow me."

Peter did just as the angel said. He did not know what the angel was doing or what was happening. Was he dreaming? They walked past the first guards and then the second guards. When they came to the iron gate leading to the city, it opened all by itself. Peter was free! They walked down one street and the angel left Peter. Peter realized that he had not been dreaming, but that the Lord had sent His angel to rescue him from Herod.

Peter hurried to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark. Many people had gathered there and were praying. Peter knocked on the door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice she became so excited that she forgot to let him in. She ran and told the others, "It's Peter. Peter is at the door." They did not believe her. It couldn't be Peter. But she kept insisting that it was.

Peter kept knocking at the door. When they finally opened it everyone was astonished to really see him. He motioned for them to be quiet as he described how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. He told them to tell the other disciples about his escape. He then left for another safe place to stay. The people of the church had prayed to God to help Peter. God heard their prayers and helped Peter escape to safety. We can pray for others, too. In fact our Bible verse, James 5:16 tells us to "Pray for one another." Let's do that right now.

*Pray for the children in the room, their families, the teachers in Joyland, the ministers, etc.*

God will hear our prayers just like He heard the prayers of the people in the early church.

FYI

Second Session Classes will be:

Making a Prayer Mobile  
Making Angel Rubbings  
Playing London Bridge

## MAKE PUDDING

Materials: 2 Packages of Pudding Mix\*  
4 C. Milk  
Measuring Cup  
Mixing Spoon  
Mixing Bowl

(In 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Kitchen)

Plastic Spoons  
Plastic Cups

(In room)

Do: After getting and measuring the milk for your class, either return the excess to the kitchen or deliver to a neighboring Program B (3's) class.

- Let the children help pour pudding mix into the bowl.
- Let them help measure and add the milk.
- Stir.
- Either allow pudding to thicken in room, or return to kitchen and chill in refrigerator for a few minutes.
- Serve in plastic drinking cups.

Talk about: Peter was probably hungry after he escaped from prison. Maybe his friends fed him when he arrived at the house they were meeting in. They probably did not have pudding, though. We can pretend to be making a meal for someone who is very hungry...maybe you and me!

\*If you have a very large class (12+), get an extra box of pudding from the kitchen. Adjust Milk accordingly.

## COLORING PAGE

### The Church Was Praying

Materials: Coloring pages  
Coloring page of 15 Peters  
Scraps of colored paper  
Paper Plates  
Cotton Swabs  
Crayons  
Glue  
Scissors  
Tape

(In room)

(In room)

(In room)

(In room)

Do:

- Cut/tear scraps of paper into small bits. (Dime size)
- Give each child a "The church was ...praying" coloring page.
- Cut out and give each child a Peter.
- Pour glue onto 2 or 3 paper plates.
- Show how to dip the cotton swab in the glue and then rub on the paper.
- Help them glue Peter to the outside of the prison.
- Let them make a path with dots of glue from the prison to Mary's house.
- Place the bits of paper on the glue to show the path.  
Let them color the page.

Talk about: Retell the Bible Story as you work. Stress the importance of prayer.

## PAPER CHAINS

Materials: Strips of construction paper  
Bible verse stickers – Five different verses  
Glue sticks (In room)

Do:

- Give each child 5 strips of paper.
- Let them add a different bible verse on each one.
- Help them loop the first piece into a circle and glue in place. (Be sure the Bible Verse sticker is on the outside).
- Show how to loop the next piece through the first circle and glue in place.
- Continue with the remaining pieces.
- Let them make longer chains if you have extra materials and if desired. (Be certain everyone has at least 5).

Tip: If a child makes 2 or 3 circles without looping them together, use the remaining strips to loop through 2 circles to connect them. No need to 'unglue' them.

Talk about: Read the Bible verses on the chain. Talk about all the past stories about Peter. See if they can tell you about the stories after hearing the verse. Have them recite some of the verses back to you.