

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

Program B-2

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

First Session Classes will be:

Making/eating Pudding

Coloring The Church was Praying Page

Making Paper Chains

PRAYER MOBILE

Materials: Coloring pages
Straws
Yarn
Chenille wire, 4” pieces
Hole-punch (In room)
Crayons (In room)
Glue (In room)
Scissors (In room)

Do:

- Give each child the coloring pages to color.
- Help them cut out the circles of people and the rectangle.
- Punch a hole on each circle where indicated. Punch 5 holes on the ‘We can pray for...’ rectangle.
- Cut a 24” piece of yarn for each child.
- Thread the yarn through the straw and tie the ends to form a hanger.
- Help them thread a piece of chenille wire through a hole on the rectangle and then attach a circle. Twist to close. Do this with all the circles.
- Place glue along the top of the rectangle back. Place the straw on the glue.

Do not pick up by yarn until dry.

Talk about: What do you see in the circles? We can pray for those who are sick, or poor, or hungry or sad. We can pray for our friends and family. We can pray for missionaries. You can use this mobile to remind you to pray for others.

ANGEL RUBBING

Materials: Drawing Paper
Angel Cutouts
Bible Verse Stickers
Pencils
Crayons (In room)
Tape (In room)

Do:

- Tape the angel cutouts to the table.
- Show how to lay the paper over the angel and rub a crayon or pencil over the paper to make a rubbing.
- Add a Bible verse sticker.

Talk about: God heard the prayers of Peter’s friends. He sent an angel to Peter to free him from prison.

LONDON BRIDGE

Materials: None

Do: Teachers can start out as the 'bridge.'
Have children line up and walk under the bridge as you sing 'London Bridge is Falling Down.' Be sure to 'capture' and 'lock up' someone at the end. Let that person be part of the bridge on the next turn.

Talk about: Peter was in prison because he would not stop telling others about Jesus. He had not done anything wrong. He was doing what God had told him to do. God wanted him to keep telling others about Jesus, so He sent an angel to set Peter free.

Play more games: Simon Peter Says
Prison, prison, free (Duck, duck, goose)
Angel, may I? (Mother, may I?)
Follow-the-Angel (Follow-the Leader)

If your class is manageable, act out the escape. Have everyone pretend to be asleep and in prison, like Peter. (Have them remove their shoes). You wake them up and lead them out of the room just like the angel. Make your escape to the water fountain or the fish tank. Remind them that you must be very quiet so that "the guards" are not disturbed.