

September 22
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON
(Acts 12)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but he wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have one childcare volunteer stand outside the room and knock on the door as children are seated in group time. Wait for children to notice the knocking on the door and excuse yourself to answer it. Follow the script in the "Say" portion.

***SAY** I wonder who could be at the door? Were you expecting someone? [Go peek out the door and then come back to the group, leaving the person behind the closed door.] Well! What a surprise! It's [childcare volunteer's name]! So, I was going to tell you about our Bible story today. ... Silly me! I forgot to let [childcare volunteer] in the room! Let me go open the door! [Invite the volunteer in.] Sorry, friend! I got so excited that I didn't even open the door to let you in. I was just about to tell everyone our Bible story today. Let's find out what happened!*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY The people who were praying for Peter, and Peter himself, are both part of the church. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.** Everyone who trusts in Jesus is a Christian and is part of the church.

4. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage to the preschoolers, and then ask them to repeat after you. Continue to invite preschoolers to repeat the key passage after you, starting very quiet and getting a little louder each time.

SAY *It was fun to say the key passage a bit louder each time! Do you think Peter was loud or quiet while he was leaving the prison with the angel? I bet he was quiet, because he did not want to get caught and put back in chains!*

5. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Review today's Bible story by asking the following review questions.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? *(Preschoolers' answers will vary.)*
2. Who was freed from prison after the people prayed? *(Peter)*

3. Who do we pray to? Who has the power to answer our prayers? (God)
4. Is there anything that you need prayer for? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
5. **What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.**

SAY *Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus even though King Herod did not like it and might put him in prison. God heard the prayers of the people and rescued him from prison. God hears our prayers today, too!*

6. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY Dear Jesus, You can do amazing things! You helped Peter escape from prison and You can help us today! Help us to be like Peter, willing to trust You and tell others about You no matter how hard it might be. Amen.

SEE **PRAY FOR EACH OTHER ACTIVITY.**

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES BELOW)

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Guide a time of preschoolers and leaders sharing things they need prayer for and then pray for those things. Remind preschoolers that God is able to hear and answer all our prayers.

SAY *God heard the prayers of the people praying for Peter, and He rescued Peter from prison! God hears our prayers today, too. We can talk to God anytime and anywhere. God loves you and wants you to talk to Him.*

GUESS WHO IS KNOCKING

Guide preschoolers to close their eyes. While one leader remains in the room, another leader will quietly tap a preschooler on the shoulder. This preschooler will quietly leave the room with the leader, close the door, and knock. Preschoolers remaining in the room will open their eyes and guess who is knocking. Continue to play with different preschoolers going outside to knock.

SAY *I hope you had fun guessing who was knocking! After he was freed from prison, Peter knocked on the door, but Rhoda was so excited that she went to tell everyone without even letting Peter in! Would you have opened the door for Peter?*

MAKE PAPER CHAINS

Cut **1-by-6-inch strips of construction paper**. Set them on a table with adhesive dots. Demonstrate making a paper loop and gluing the ends together. Help the children make paper chain links from the paper strips. Make the loops at either end as wide as possible so they will fall off the children's wrists. Demonstrate sliding them on and then letting them fall off onto the floor.

SAY *Remember in the Bible story Peter was in chains inside the prison. The believers in the church were praying for God to help Peter. God heard their prayers and sent an angel to rescue him. The angel woke Peter up, and his chains just fell off. Peter and the angel walked right out of the prison and past the guards, and no one stopped them. God's plan was for Peter to continue to tell people about Jesus.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE (*please send this home with parents*)

As children color, talk about the Christ Connection.

SAY *God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

If you plan to use the Storytelling Tips, you will need to gather those materials beforehand.

Open your Bible to Acts 12 and tell the following Bible story. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

STORYTELLING TIPS

Play a game on the floor: Attach sticky notes to the floor to create a game path. Move along the path to track Peter's progress from prison to the house.

Play out the story with children: Invite volunteers to act out the parts of King Herod, soldiers, Peter, the angel, Rhoda, and the friends.

King Herod was mean to believers in the church. He hurt some of them, and he put Peter in prison. The king told groups of soldiers to stand guard at the prison so Peter could not escape. While Peter was in prison, other believers in the church prayed and asked God to help him.

That night, Peter was sleeping in the prison. There was a guard on his left and a guard on his right. He was tied up with chains. All of a sudden, an angel appeared and a bright light shone in the prison.

The angel woke up Peter. "Quick, get up!" the angel said. The chains fell off of Peter's wrists. He put on his shoes and his coat, and he followed the angel.

The angel led Peter out of the prison. He walked past the guards. The gate opened for them, and they walked out onto the street. Then the angel left. Peter looked around. The Lord had rescued him!

Peter hurried to a house where other believers were praying. When Peter knocked at the door, a servant named Rhoda answered. She heard Peter's voice and she was so happy she ran back inside without letting Peter in.

"Peter is here!" she said. "He is at the door!"

No one believed her. "You're crazy!" they said. But Peter kept knocking, so they opened the door and welcomed him in. Peter told them how the Lord had rescued him from prison.

Christ Connection: God heard the prayers of the people. He had a plan for Peter, and He helped him escape from prison. Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but he wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

September 22
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Two Year Olds
PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON
(Acts 12)

CHRIST CONNECTION: God hears and answers prayers.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The church has many people who help. 1 Corinthians 12:12

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have one childcare volunteer stand outside the room and knock on the door as children are seated in group time. Wait for children to notice the knocking on the door and excuse yourself to answer it. Follow the script in the “Say” portion.

***SAY** I wonder who could be at the door? Were you expecting someone? [Go peek out the door and then come back to the group, leaving the person behind the closed door.] Well! What a surprise! It's [childcare volunteer's name]! So, I was going to tell you about our Bible story today. ... Silly me! I forgot to let [childcare volunteer] in the room! Let me go open the door! [Invite the volunteer in.] Sorry, friend! I got so excited that I didn't even open the door to let you in. I was just about to tell everyone our Bible story today. Let's find out what happened!*

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3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the **key passage phrase marker** at 1 Corinthians 12:12. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead preschoolers to learn the key passage phrase..

***SAY** The church was growing and growing as more and more people learned about and believed in Jesus. **The church is all Christians everywhere.** Many people work together to tell about Jesus, like a body has many parts that each do different things.*

ACTIVITIES

WALK QUIETLY

Guide all preschoolers to lay down and pretend to be asleep. Select one preschooler at a time to try to cross the room without making a sound or touch any of the “sleeping” preschoolers.

***SAY** You reminded me of what I imagine Peter was doing when he escaped from prison! After the angel woke him up and he put on his coat and shoes, he likely snuck out quietly and carefully so that no one would know. God freed him from prison—just like the people were praying for! Peter knew he might die because he believed in Jesus, but he wanted to share the good news about Jesus no matter what.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the GOSPEL GEMS below:

- Peter was in prison for telling people about Jesus.
- God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison.
- God hears us when we pray.

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Open the Bible to Acts 12 and tell the following Bible story:

King Herod put Peter in prison. Jesus' followers prayed and asked God to help Peter. One night, Peter was sleeping in the prison. All of a sudden, an angel appeared. The angel woke Peter and told him to get up. The chains fell off of Peter's wrists. He followed the angel out of the prison. Then the angel left. The Lord had rescued him! Peter hurried to a house where his friends were praying. They were so surprised! Peter knocked until they opened the door and welcomed him in. God had heard and answered their prayers!

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.