



READERS' THEATRE PETER'S ESCAPE FROM PRISON

Acts 12:5-16 (NIRV)

This Readers' Theatre Script is a compilation of scripture quotes from Acts 12:5-16. The quotes are taken directly from the New International Reader's Version.

Teacher assigns roles and places everyone for the scene. Nonreaders and younger students often prefer to dress up and act out each sentence as the teacher and assistant read. Older, more proficient readers, may want to read the parts.

Prepare: With floor tape, mark off Mary's home and door, the prison and door, the street between prison and home, and the line across the street marking the iron gate. Chairs can be used to line walls of the prison, Mary's home and sides of street.

1. NARRATORS 1 & 2: Teacher, assistant, or volunteer
2. ANGEL: Boy
3. RHODA: Girl
4. PETER: Boy
5. TWO SOLDIERS: Two children
6. LOOKOUTS: Two or three children
7. IRON GATE: Two, four, or six children
8. CHURCH MEMBERS: Remaining children

Scene

Church members kneel inside Mary's home.

Rhoda stands at the inside door of Mary's home.

Peter sleeps with imaginary "chains" in the opposite corner with his shoes off.

Two soldiers sleep at Peter's side.

Lookouts stand guard at prison door.

Angel hides behind a classroom chair or desk.

Iron Gate children link arms as the iron gate on street between Mary's home and the prison.

[NARRATOR 1] Peter was kept in prison. But the church prayed hard to God for him. It was the night before King Herod was going to bring him to trial. Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. Two chains held him there. Lookouts stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared.

[Angel jumps up from hiding place, gently nudges Peter on his side.]

[NARRATOR 2] A light shone in the prison cell. The angel struck Peter on his side. Peter woke up.

[ANGEL] "Quick! Get up!"

[NARRATOR 1] The chains fell off Peter's wrists.

[ANGEL] "Put on your clothes and sandals. Put on your coat. Follow me." *[Peter puts on shoes and imaginary coat.]*

[NARRATOR 2] Peter followed him out of the prison. But he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening. He thought he was seeing a vision.

[Peter rubs his eyes as if dreaming.]

[NARRATOR 1] They passed the first and second guards. Then they came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself.

[Children with linked arms pretending to be the iron city gate divide in half to represent opening the gate.]

[NARRATOR 2] They went through it. They walked the length of one street. Suddenly the angel left Peter.

[Angel returns to hiding place.]

[NARRATOR 1] Then Peter realized what had happened.

[PETER] Now I know for sure that the Lord sent His angel. He set me free from Herod's power. He saved me from everything the Jewish people were hoping for.

[NARRATOR 2] When Peter understood what had happened, he went to Mary's house. Mary was the mother of John Mark. Many people had gathered in her home. They were praying there. Peter knocked at the outer entrance.

[Peter knocks. Rhoda stands at door, but does not open it.]

[NARRATOR 1] A servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. She recognized Peter's voice. She was so excited that she ran back without opening the door.

[RHODA] Peter is at the door!

[CHURCH MEMBERS] You're out of your mind. It must be his angel.

[Peter keeps on knocking.]

[NARRATOR 2] When they opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.

[All cheer!]

THE END