



Peter Escapes from Prison

Lesson Aim: To know praying together is important.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Changes Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 12:5-17

What He Has Done: God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.

THE WAY

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17a

Unit 2: The Promise of Change			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
6	God Changes Saul's Heart, Acts 9:1-7	Jesus spoke to Saul from heaven.	To know God can change our hearts to want to be more like Jesus.
7	Saul Escapes from Damascus, Acts 9:19b-25, 28	God protected Saul as a witness for His kingdom.	To keep telling others about Jesus.
8	Peter and Tabitha (Dorcas), Acts 9:36-42	God helped Peter bring Tabitha back to life.	To know we can help others.
9	Peter Visits Cornelius, Acts 10:9-12, 15, 22-35	God showed He does not have favorites.	To know God loves everyone the same.
10	Peter Escapes from Prison, Acts 12:1-19	God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison.	To know praying together is important.
11	Barnabas Encourages Saul, Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26	God sent Barnabas to help Saul.	To be a true friend to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Ephesians 3:20-21. Please join us in praying, "Lord, thank You for Your grace in hearing and answering the prayers of Your people. Help us come together in prayer and trust in You alone for the answers. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Transition times can be difficult for young children. You can help by giving kids a two to five minute warning and by using a signal to announce a transition to the next activity. Your signal might be clapping three times, a musical instrument, a simple song, or maybe even a train whistle. Whatever you choose, keep it simple, consistent and fun.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of praying hands
		Coloring Center: Peter Escapes from Prison	Coloring pages of Peter with the angel escaping from prison, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: Praying Together	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block Center: Peter and the Angel	Blocks, paper cut-outs of Peter and the angel
	Activity Center: God Is with You	Toy links or cut strips of paper for the children to tape together	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 10
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 12:5-17	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 12:10 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, blocks or other toys in a container
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Escape at the Gate	Standard-size sturdy paper (any color), sturdy white and black paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Escape from Prison	Two chairs
		Game: The Chains Fall Down	None
		Snack: Praying Together Snack	Any snack that goes together such as cookies and milk, cheese and crackers, or carrots and celery
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 10
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 12:5-17	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Creation" Ball Toss	Soft ball
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about prayer

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of praying hands. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of praying hands help you remember to take time to pray together to God!**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: PETER ESCAPES FROM PRISON

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Peter with the angel escaping from prison, crayons

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

In our Bible story today, God heard the prayers of Peter's friends and He sent an angel to help Peter escape from prison. Do you think Peter's friends were happy God answered their prayers? (Children respond.) **God always hears and answers our prayers. Who do you pray with?** (Family, friends, teacher, etc.) **Does God hear your prayers?** (Yes.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: PRAYING TOGETHER

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing prayer. Encourage children to roll out the play-dough and press their hand(s) into it.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will talk about how important it is that we pray together. Who are we talking to when we pray? (God.) **God loves when we pray to Him. He especially loves when we come together to pray.** While you are working together with the play-dough, let's sing a little tune to remind us to pray together.

We All Can Pray Together (Tune: The More We Get Together)

We all can pray together, together, together.

We all can pray together and trust in the Lord.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK CENTER: PETER AND THE ANGEL

SUPPLIES

Blocks, paper cut-outs of Peter and the angel

DO

Children build a prison cell from blocks and act out today's story. If you have several children working together, have some build a city wall with a gate.

TALK ABOUT

In today's Bible story, God sends an angel to help Peter escape from prison. Can you build a prison cell out of the blocks? When you're done, let's act out the story. Retell the story in your own words using the points below.

- Peter was locked in prison.
- God sent an angel. The angel said, "Quick, get up! Follow me!"
- Peter followed the angel out of the prison.
- The city gate opened all by itself.
- Peter celebrated with his friends. (Encourage the children to clap and cheer.)

ACTIVITY CENTER: GOD IS WITH YOU

SUPPLIES

Toy links or cut strips of paper for the children to tape together

DO

Children play with the toy links (or tape together paper strips into chains).

TALK ABOUT

King Herod put Peter in prison because he didn't like him telling others about Jesus. Peter wasn't afraid; he knew God was with him. Peter's hands were tied in chains. Let's make a chain and remember God is always with us. What are you afraid of? (Children respond.) **Next time you are afraid, remember God was with Peter in prison and God is with you, too!**

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

(one) Index finger is held upright.

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

**he is a new
creation."**

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



When we pray together, we become closer to God and to each other. Let's talk to God right now. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for hearing our prayers. Help us come together in prayer and trust in You alone for the answers. Amen.**



When we pray, it is important to remember that there is nothing our God cannot do. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

In today's story, Peter's friends came together in one place to pray to God. We have come together in this place to pray to God, too. First, let's collect our offering and ask God to use the money to help people grow closer to Him. Leader prays and all sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath" while collecting the offering.



Today, we will hear a story about what happened when Peter's friends prayed to God for him while he was in prison. Let's see if Delbert and Lello have heard this story. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 2, Lesson 10.



When we have Jesus in our hearts, He makes our hearts like new. Our Bible Memory Verse tells us "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." Let's say our verse together. Say verse together two or three times.

"If anyone is in Christ,

(one) Index finger is held upright.

he is a new

(Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

creation."

(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand.

2 Corinthians 5:17a

Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation."



Peter escapes from prison

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 12:10, picture of the Bible story, blocks or other toys in a container

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Before the children gather for Bible Time, spread the blocks (or toys) on the floor. **Hello boys and girls! I'm so glad to see you. I brought some blocks with me today, but they spilled on the floor. Could a few of you help me pick them up and put them in the container?** Choose a few children (or allow all the children) to help you put away the blocks. **Thank you for your help.**

When we work together, we can do great things. The Bible tells us that when we pray together, God can do great things. Let's find out what happened to Peter when his friends prayed together for him. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 12:10.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 12:5-17

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Peter was locked in a prison.**
- **His hands were tied in chains.**
- **He fell asleep between two guards.**
- **Then, a light and an angel came.**

- **"Quick, get up!" the angel said;**
- **Peter's chains fell to the ground.**
- **"Get dressed. Get your shoes. Follow me!"**
- **Then, the angel led Peter right out.**

- **The city gate opened all by itself.**
- **Peter knocked on his friends' door.**
- **All were surprised that Peter was free.**
- **Their prayers had been heard by the Lord!**

What happened when Peter and the angel came to the iron city gate? (It opened by itself.) **What did Peter's friends do?** (Prayed together to God.)



We can pray together

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: ESCAPE AT THE GATE

Purpose: To remind the children that the angel helped Peter escape from prison.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy paper (any color), sturdy white and black paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers

Prepare: Fold a sturdy sheet of paper (any color) in half across its width. To make the prison gate, cut out a large rectangle from the front of the folded paper, leaving a border around the edge (like a picture frame). Do not cut on the fold. To make the prison bars, cut three strips of sturdy black paper to the same vertical length of the folded paper. On white paper, draw or print a picture of Peter and the angel with a light above them.

Note: The picture should fit inside the window cut into the folded paper above. Below the drawing, print:

The angel helped Peter escape.

Acts 12:5-17

Directions:

1. Glue or tape the prison bars to the top and bottom edges of the prison gate.
2. Color the drawing of Peter and the angel.
3. Attach the drawing to the inside back page of the prison gate so you can see it through the prison bars.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where was Peter locked up?** (In prison.)
- **What did Peter's friends do while he was in prison?** (Prayed together.)
- **God heard their prayers. Who did God send to help Peter?** (An angel.)
- **Hold up your craft. Hold the gate closed to show Peter in prison.**
- **Now open the gate! The angel helped Peter escape from the prison! His friends' prayers were answered!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ESCAPE FROM PRISON

Purpose: To remember the story of Peter's escape from prison, children will act it out.

Supplies: Two chairs

Directions:

1. Place two chairs next to each other, with enough room for a child to walk between them.
2. Choose one child to play Peter. Have Peter stand behind the two chairs (in prison).
3. Choose one child to be the angel. The angel stands to the side of the two chairs.
4. Seat the other children as Peter's friends on the other side of the play area.
5. **Peter was in prison. What did Peter's friends do?** (Prayed together.) **Let's pretend we are Peter's friends praying together for him.**
6. Friends kneel and fold their hands in prayer.
7. **God heard the prayers of Peter's friends. He sent an angel to rescue Peter.**
8. The angel moves in front of the two chairs and holds his or her hand out to Peter. Peter walks through the chairs, joins the other children, and they all cheer.
9. Play again, as time allows. Choose different children each time as Peter and the angel.

GAME: THE CHAINS FALL DOWN

Purpose: In this adaptation of the traditional game "Ring a Ring O' Roses" or "Ring around the Rosie," children are reminded that Peter's chains fell off.

Supplies: None

Where was Peter sleeping when the angel came? (In prison.) **There were two guards with him. His hands were tied up with chains. What happened when the angel told Peter to get up?** (The chains fell off his wrists.) **It was a miracle! Let's play a game to remember Peter's escape from prison.**

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle and hold hands.
2. While holding hands, children skip (or walk) in one direction around the circle while singing or chanting the following rhyme:

Peter is locked in chains.

The angel comes to say:

"Get up! Get up!"

The chains fell down!

3. At the end of the phrase "The chains fell down," the children sit down.
4. Play again, as time allows.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: PRAYING TOGETHER SNACK

Purpose: To remind children of joining with others in prayer, children will combine two parts of a snack.

Snack Suggestion: Any snack that goes together such as cookies and milk, cheese and crackers, or carrots and celery

For our snack today, I've chosen two foods that we often eat together. Show the children the snack. **They remind me that we can pray together just like Peter's friends prayed together for him. Who can we pray for together?** (Children respond.) Lead children in a brief prayer.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Was Peter's escape from prison a miracle?** (Yes.)
 - **When we pray, it is important to remember God can do anything.**
 - **Can God make sick people well?** (Yes.)
 - **Can God help someone who is hungry find food?** (Yes.)
 - **Can God help someone who is lost find their way home?** (Yes.)
 - **Is there anything God cannot do?** (No.) **When we pray together, God hears our prayers and He will answer them.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"If anyone is in Christ,	(one) Index finger is held upright. (Christ) Make "C" shape with hand. Move "C" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
he is a new creation."	(new) Back of right hand makes a scooping motion across palm of left hand. Both fists make a twisting motion as they bounce on top of each other.
2 Corinthians 5:17a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 12:5-17

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Peter was locked in a prison.** (Raise index finger, as if explaining.)
- **His hands were tied in chains.** (Connect wrist as if chained together.)
- **He fell asleep between two guards.** (Lay head on folded hands to sleep.)
- **Then, a light and an angel came.** (Point to heaven.)

- **“Quick, get up!” the angel said;** (Cup hands around mouth to whisper.)
- **Peter’s chains fell to the ground.** (Spread wrists far apart.)
- **“Get dressed. Get your shoes. Follow me!”** (Make beckoning motion.)
- **Then, the angel led Peter right out.** (Point to a door.)

- **The city gate opened all by itself.** (Bring palms together then open wide, as a gate.)
- **Peter knocked on his friends’ door.** (Pretend to knock.)
- **All were surprised that Peter was free.** (Hands on cheeks, as if surprised.)
- **Their prayers had been heard by the Lord!** (Clasp hands to pray, then point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

2 Corinthians 5:17a

GAME: NEW HEARTS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. First child stands in the center of the circle with both hands covering his or her own heart.
3. All the children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, replacing the word “anyone” with the name of the child standing in the center of the circle.
 - If child’s name is in Christ,** (Children repeat.)
 - He/She is a new creation.** (Children repeat)
 - The old has gone.** (Children repeat.)
 - The new has come! Hooray!** (Children repeat.)
4. Child in the center removes his or her hands to uncover his or her heart.
5. Play until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: "NEW CREATION" BALL TOSS

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Soft ball

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." That means if you have Jesus in your heart, He will help you grow to be more like Him.

Teacher Tip: Two and three-year-olds are still learning motor skills such as tossing and catching. You may choose to have the children sit in a circle and roll the ball depending on the age and skill level of the children.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Toss the ball to the first child.
3. While child holds ball, child recites the Bible Memory Verse: **"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."** If a child is uncomfortable saying the verse alone, have the class say it together.
4. Child tosses the ball back to you or to another child.
5. Repeat until each child has at least one turn.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about prayer.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 2, Lesson 10: Peter Escapes from Prison

PONDER! God sent His angel to rescue Peter from prison (Acts 12:5-17). What did Peter's friends do? (Prayed together.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for hearing us when we pray. Help us remember to gather together to pray. Amen."

PLAY! Take time this week to pray together. Give each person in the family a chance to pray. Young children may not understand everything about prayer, but if you model and build a solid foundation in prayer when they are young, it can last them a lifetime.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"If anyone
is in Christ,**

**he is a new
creation."**

2 Corinthians 5:17a

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Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.