



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

Whisper Verse: "Pray to God."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

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 12:5-17	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."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of praying hands
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Pray to God."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: "A New Creation" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Change My Heart, O God" "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 Visual: Metal or paper chains to represent Peter's wrist chains
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Escape at the Gate	Sturdy paper (any color), Sturdy black paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers
		Game: Escape from Prison	Paper chains (loop and tape strips of paper around each other), chair
		Game: The Chains Fall Down	None
		Snack: Praying Together	Dip with celery, carrots, pretzels, or chips
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 2, Lesson 10 Color This Story: "The Angel Helped Peter Escape"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 12:5-17	None
	Up to 10	Game: New Hearts	None
	Up to 10	Game: "New Heart" Memory Pass	Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about prayer

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Pray to God

THE 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 sticker of hands folded for prayer help you remember to pray together to God! Today's Whisper Verse is "Pray to God."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Pray to God."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Pray" Place palms together in the traditional gesture of prayer.

"(to) God." The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Pray to God," Acts 12:5b. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The Spirit who changes us

THE WORSHIP

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.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who changes us. Sing Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song: “A New Creation.”

Every time we pray to God, we are changed because we grow closer to Him. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse. Let's try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “**Pray to God.**” Include sign language.

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.



After the angel helped Peter escape, he went to the house where his friends were praying together for him. His friends were very surprised to see God had answered their prayer to free Peter. When we pray, it is important to remember that there is nothing our God cannot do. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”

We must always remember to pray together as Peter's friends did. Prayer changes us—it brings us closer to God and to each other. Sing: “How Wide?”



Peter escapes from prison

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God showed Peter He loves everyone. Today, we will see how God sent an angel to rescue Peter from prison. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 12:10.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 12:5-17

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display metal or paper chains or a picture of chains to represent Peter's wrist chains. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Acts 12:10 from the teacher's Bible.

What did Peter's friends do? (Prayed together to God.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer.** Let's say it together: **"Pray to God."** Include sign language or hand motions.



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 a large rectangle from the front of the folded paper, leaving a border around the edges (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 a piece of white paper, draw a picture of Peter and the angel with a light above them. Note: The picture should fit inside the large rectangle 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.)
- **That reminds me of our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse "Pray to God" with the hand motions.
- **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: Paper chains (loop and tape strips of paper around each other), chair

Directions:

1. Choose one child to play Peter. Place the paper chains around the child's wrists. Place the chair in front of the child to be the iron gate.
2. Choose one child to be the angel.
3. Seat the other children as Peter's friends on the other side of the play area.
4. **Peter was in prison. What did Peter's friends do?** (Prayed together.) **Let's pretend we are Peter's friends praying together for him.**
5. Friends kneel and fold their hands in prayer.
6. **God heard the prayers of Peter's friends. He sent an angel to rescue Peter.**
7. The angel pulls off Peter's chains and leads Peter around the gate. Peter joins the other children and they all cheer.
8. 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," children bow (or curtsy, squat down, sit, etc.)
4. Play again, as time allows.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: PRAYING TOGETHER

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

Snack Suggestion: Dip with celery, carrots, pretzels, or chips

Peter's friends prayed together for him. Who can we pray for together? (Children respond.)

Lead children in a brief prayer. **Let's pray together and ask God to bless our snack.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **For our snack today, we're joining together celery** (carrots, pretzels, chips) **and dip. Let it remind you that Peter's friends joined together to pray.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the Whisper Verse motions: "Pray to God."
 - **Was Peter's escape from prison a miracle?** (Yes.)
 - **Imagine how it felt to be with Peter's friends praying for him in prison. Would you have been surprised to suddenly see Peter at the door?** (Children respond.)
 - **Have you ever been surprised to see how God answered one of your prayers?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Escape at the Gate" craft. Tell someone how God sent the angel to rescue Peter from prison.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Peter's friends prayed together. You can pray with others, too!**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Angel Helped Peter Escape." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse Song, "A New Creation," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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; the old has gone, the new has come!”
2 Corinthians 5:17

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 HEART" MEMORY PASS

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Heart-shaped item (pillow, toy, or sturdy paper cut-out)

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the heart to a child. Lead the children in saying the first word of the verse: "If."
3. Child passes the heart to the next child. Lead the children in saying the next word in the verse: "anyone."
4. Continue passing the heart with each word until the children have repeated the entire verse.
5. Play again. Each time you play, try to say the verse faster.



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! Read Acts 12:5-17 with your family. Where was Peter? What did his friends do? God heard the prayers of Peter's friends. Who did God send to rescue Peter? What did the angel tell Peter to do?

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! "Circle of Prayer!" Stand or sit in a circle with your family. Have one family member stand in the center of the circle. Ask that person to share one thing he or she would like the family to pray for. Have the family pray for that need. Be sure each person has a turn in the center.

Unit 2 Bible Memory Verse:

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17