



Peter Freed from Prison **God Listens to Our Prayers**

May 1–2

Bible Passage: Acts 12:1–19

The Big God Story

There once was a king named Herod and he was very mad. Many people were choosing to follow Jesus. He didn't like this, not one little bit! Can you show me a mad face? Those are some very mad faces.

King Herod heard that Peter and many others were telling people about Jesus. He sent his soldiers out to put Peter in prison.

The people who loved and followed Jesus heard what happened to Peter. So they gathered together and started to pray. The people loved God so much. They knew it was very important for everyone to hear all about God's love. Peter had a special job to do, but he couldn't do it in jail!

God's people didn't pray for just one minute. They didn't pray for two minutes, or even three. They prayed all night long! Do you think God heard them praying? Yes, He did. Can you show me your prayer hands?

While Peter was sleeping in the jail, a bright light shone on him. God had sent an angel to rescue Peter from jail! The angel woke Peter and told him to stand up.

When Peter stood, the chains fell off of him. The angel told Peter to get dressed because it was time to leave. Peter listened and followed the angel out of the prison. Peter didn't understand what was happening, but he continued to follow the angel.

The angel led Peter out of the prison to safety. Then suddenly the angel was gone and Peter saw that he was free. He said, "The Lord sent an angel and saved me!"

Peter went to the house where his friends were praying. He knocked on the door. Let's knock.

A girl named Rhoda came to the door. When she heard Peter's voice, she was so excited that she forgot to let him in. She ran and told everyone inside the house that Peter was at the door. The people didn't believe her. But Peter kept knocking. Let's knock some more.

When they opened the door, they were so surprised to see him. Peter motioned for his friends to be quiet. He wanted to tell them how God saved him. Right before Peter left, he told them to go and tell the other disciples what had happened.

Did God listen to the people when they were praying for Peter? God was with the people when they were praying for Peter, and He was with Peter when he was in the prison cell. God heard His people pray, and He sent an angel to set Peter free. We can trust God. He always listens to our prayers.

Family Fun

Parents,

Peter was imprisoned for his proclaiming his faith out loud. His friends took significant risks gathering and praying for him. A great way to honor all those who practiced Christianity in the very early days is to participate and proclaim our faith.

Fun Stuff

Cut equally wide strips of paper – multi-colored construction paper is best, but any will work. Write a blessing or prayer on the strips. Loop the first strip into a circle and tape (or staple). Continue feeding each loop into the next until you have a proper paper chain.

To Go

After connecting 5–6 loops, go through your neighborhood and hang the paper chain on mailbox flags (after mail has been delivered for the day). They look super cool when flapping in the wind and the words will bless the lives of your neighbors.