

Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-17)

May 10, 2020



PLAN

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible | Deep Blue Bible Storybook | Deep Blue Adventure Video | Pencils | Crayons | Markers | Scissors | Glue | Paper

Supplies for Extra At-Home Activity: Masking tape

Before You Teach

King Herod didn't like the disciples talking about Jesus, so he started bullying the church leaders. He threw Peter in jail. But the church was together, praying for Peter. An angel came to Peter in the night and helped him escape. Peter went to the house where the church was praying. When he knocked on the gate, a servant named Rhoda answered. She was so excited to see Peter that she forgot to open the gate. The church came out to see Peter, and he told them about the angel helping him escape. Peter told the church to share how God had taken care of him and keep praying. Then Peter left to continue sharing the good news about Jesus.

Help Peter Escape (Puzzle)

Before class: Print a copy of the maze for each person.

SAY: King Herod tried to stop Peter from talking about Jesus by putting Peter in jail. Help Peter make it through the maze to the church. The angels will help you, but beware of the guards.

ASK: Who helped Peter escape from the jail? (*angel*) What was the church doing? (*gathered together in a house, praying for Peter*)

- Allow the children time to work the maze.
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Read the Bible Story

- Find and read Acts 12:1-17 in your Bibles, or read the story from the *Deep Blue Bible Storybook* (pp. 484–488).

ASK: How did the people who had been praying for Peter respond when they saw Peter? (*amazed, surprised*) How do you think the guards felt when they realized Peter had escaped from prison?

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See the Bible Story

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids are meeting Edgar's father, Benjie, at the zoo for a welcome back party. While they're waiting, Asia tells the story of Peter escaping from prison and coming back to the church.

- Watch today's episode here:

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/video/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020/33300-lessons/112472-peter-in-prison>.

ASK: How do you feel when someone you love comes back?

Sacred Conversations

ASK: What did Peter say when he realized that he wasn't having a dream and he was free? (*"Now I'm certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me."*) How do you show praise to God?

- Allow the children to share their praise to God and have the group repeat the praise together.

ASK: How do you think Peter felt when he realized the angel had helped him escape from prison? If you were part of the church that was praying for Peter, what would you have said when you saw Peter?

Blessing

SAY: Before we end today, we are going to share a blessing with each other. Blessings show how special you are to God.

- Go around the room and say the blessing to each child.

SAY: (Person's name), God loves you. God remembers you. God will always be with you.

PRAY: Dear God, show us how to serve you every day. Thank you for answering the church's prayers and helping Peter escape from prison; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Prisoners, Guards, and Angels (Extra At-Home Activity)

Before class: Make three large circles on the floor using masking tape. The smallest circle will be inside the middle-sized circle, and the middle-sized circle will be inside the large circle.

- Gather the children around the outside of the large circle.

SAY: King Herod didn't like the disciples preaching about Jesus' resurrection, so he began bullying the church leaders. He had Peter arrested and put in prison. Extra guards were assigned to keep watch on Peter, but an angel appeared and helped Peter escape. We're going to play the game Prisoners, Guards, and Angels. The prisoners will be in the inside circle, the guard in the middle circle, and the angel in the outside circle. The angel needs to try and tag the prisoners, one at a time, and bring them to the outside circle before the guard tags the angel. The guard has to stay in the middle circle. If the guard moves into another circle, she or he will be replaced. If the angel is tagged, that person will become a prisoner, and the prisoner will become the angel. The goal is to help all of the prisoners escape from prison.

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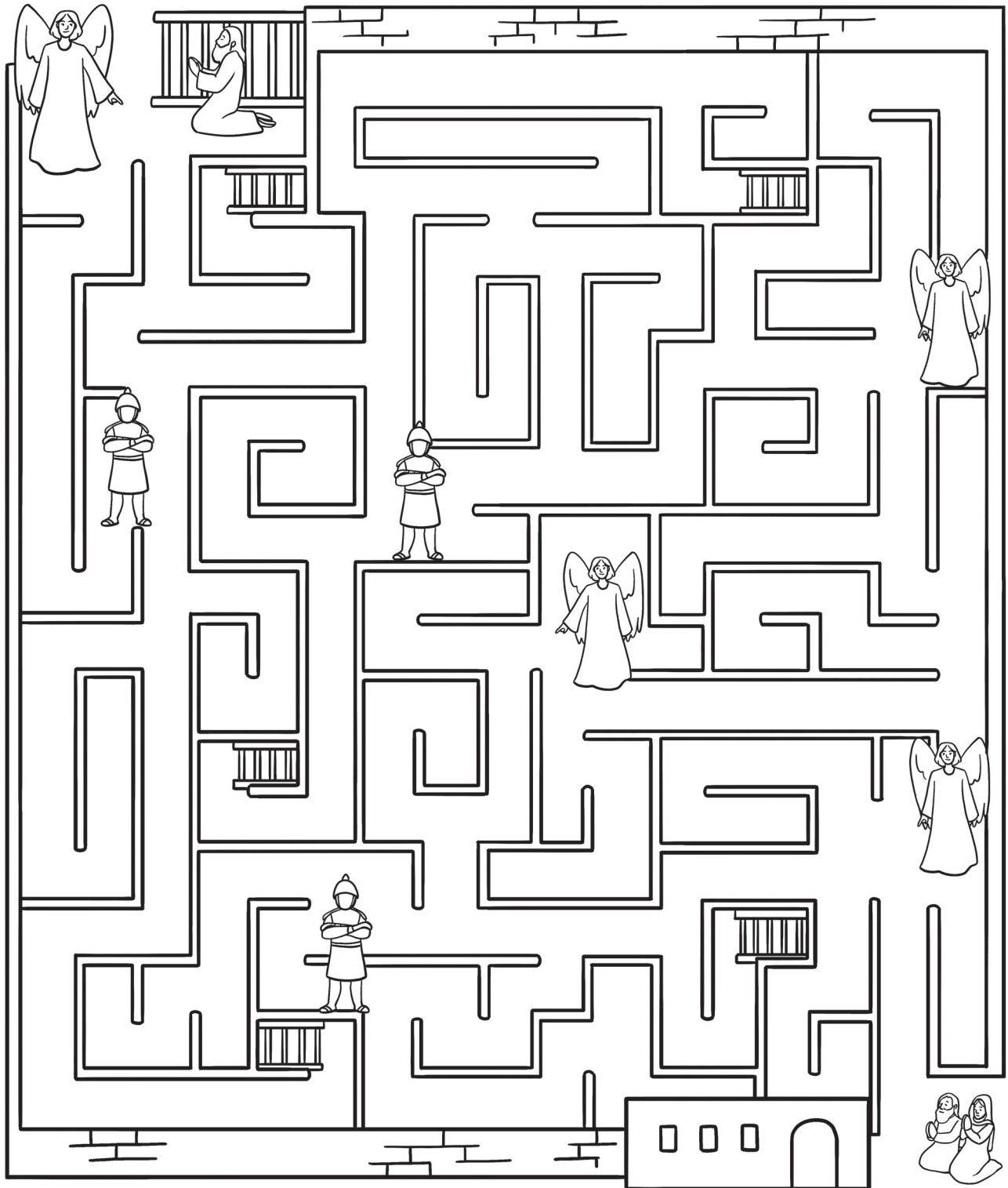


- Choose volunteers to be the guard and the angel. The rest of the children will be prisoners.
- Play until all of the prisoners have escaped.

SAY: When the angel appeared to Peter, he thought he was having a dream. He didn't realize that it was real until the angel led him outside the gates into the city.

Help Peter Escape – Puzzle

King Herod tried to stop Peter from talking about Jesus by putting Peter in jail. Help Peter make it through the maze to the church. The angels will help you, but beware of the guards.



Peter in Prison

Acts 12:1-17

King Herod was a mean king who never did a good thing. He made life very hard for all of Jesus' friends. King Herod put Peter in jail for telling people about Jesus.



King Herod ordered his soldiers to guard Peter so Peter would not escape. While Peter was in jail, the other Christians prayed for him.

One night Peter was sleeping in the jail. There were two chains holding Peter's arms down.



Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared. The angel poked Peter in his side and said, "Quick! Get up!" The chains fell off Peter's hands. The angel said, "Get dressed quickly and put on your sandals." Peter did what the angel told him to do.



When Peter was finished dressing, the angel said, "Follow me!" Peter followed the angel past the soldiers and out to the city gate. All of a sudden, the heavy gate opened by itself! Peter and the angel were walking along a street when the angel disappeared!



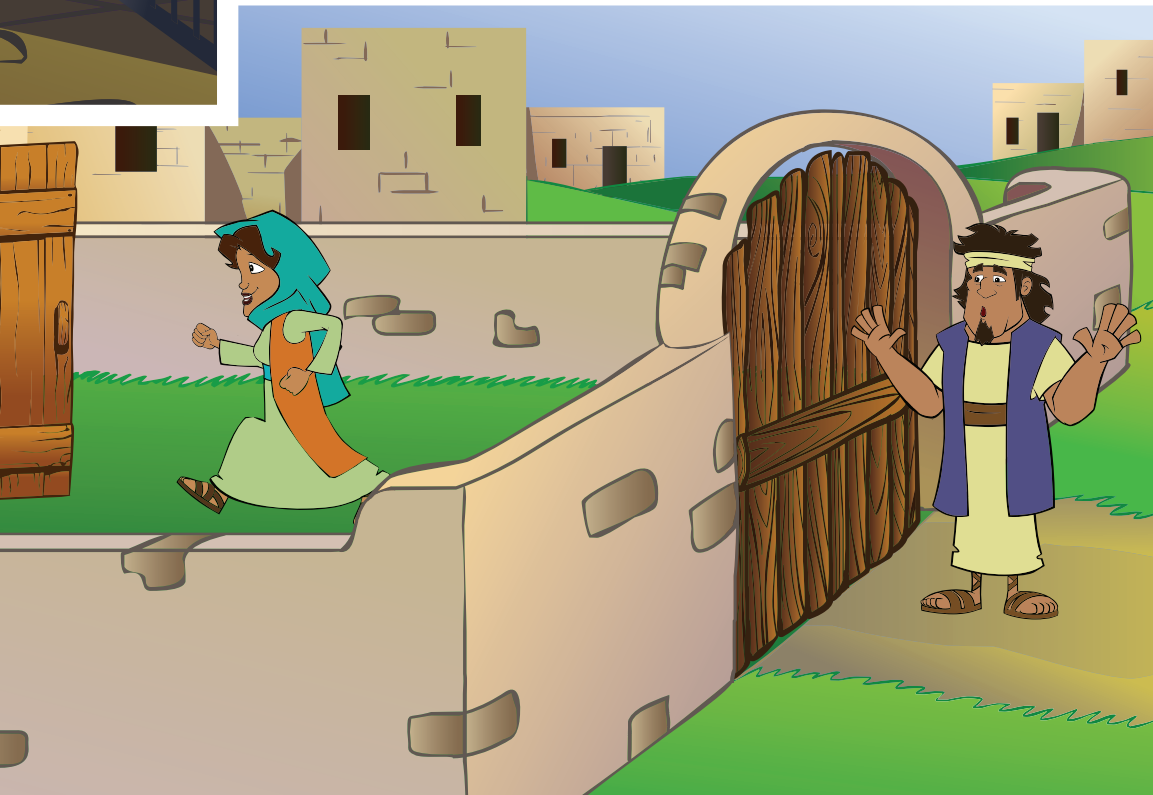
HEROD'S PRISON

-Come Back Soon-




Peter went to his friend Mary's house. Peter knocked on the door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to the door and said, "Who is it?" Peter said, "It is Peter." Rhoda became so excited that she ran back and told everyone that Peter was at the door.

The people in the house did not believe Rhoda. They said, "You must be wrong. We have just been praying for Peter."



Peter kept on knocking, and finally, someone opened the door for him. Everyone was amazed to see Peter!

Peter told everyone to keep quiet. Peter told his friends how God's angel had helped him escape. Then Peter said, "Tell James what has happened."

Peter turned around, left, and went to another town to tell others about Jesus. 

Everyone was surprised to see Peter. Have you ever been surprised?

