

## Sunday School Home Activities - Week of May 10, 2020

Check out some of the activities you and your families can do at home this week!



### Watch this week's Deep Blue Sunday School Video:

Click the link below to watch the Deep Blue Connects Spring 2020 videos. This week is Episode 11 (E11: Peter in Prison).

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020>



### Try this Family Devotion with your family!

**Read:** Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-17)

**Bible Story Focus:** Sometimes God answers our prayers in unexpected ways.

**Wonder Together:** How do you feel when someone comes back?

**Memory Verse:** *"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:20)

**Pray Together:** Share joys and concerns, and then pray, Dear God, thank you the stories and witness of the first Christian communities. Amen.

## Ages 5–Grade 2

### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about Peter. He was put in prison by people who did not like what he was saying about Jesus. Then something amazing happened.

- Tell the children the story, "Peter in Prison" (Read Acts 12:1-17). Refer to the Background for this Week's Bible Story at the end of the Sunday School activities.

**ASK:** How do you feel when someone comes back from being gone for a while?

- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 11 on [amplifymedia.com](https://my.amplifymedia.com).
- Act out the story. Take turns playing different roles.

### Family Time

Write a letter or make a card for someone you have not seen in a long time. Tell them how much you miss them, and how excited you will be to see them when you can be together again.

### Prayer Chain Family Activity

Cut strips of paper approximately 1 1/2-inch wide.

- Give each person two strips of paper, and invite them to write the names of people, or draw pictures of situations, that he or she would like the family pray for.
- Read one of the strips out loud, and then say, "Lord, in your mercy." Have everyone respond, "hear our prayer." Then tape the two ends of the strip together to create a loop.
- Repeat the same prayer with each strip of paper. As your family prays for each request, use tape to add the strip to the other loops, creating a paper chain.
- Hang the paper chain in your home.

### Angel Art

An angel came to release Peter from prison. What do you imagine the angel looked like? Have each person draw a picture. Share and compare your pictures.

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 11

## Grades 3-5

### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** In our Bible story, Peter comes back to the community of believers after he is imprisoned by King Herod. Peter experienced God's love in the form of an angel sent to rescue him from prison.

- Read the Bible story together (Acts 12:1-17).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 11 on [amplifymedia.com](https://my.amplifymedia.com).

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



## Pray For Your Church Community – Spiritual Practice

*Gather in a circle and light a candle, battery candle is great if you have one.*

**SAY:** In our today's Bible story, the church prayed for Peter while he was in prison. This type of prayer is called an intercessory prayer. The word intercessory is related to the word intercede. One of the meanings of the word intercede is to step in. Another meaning is to plead for the needs of another person. When we pray an intercessory prayer, it means that we pray for the concerns of others. This could be prayers for individuals, community needs, or the world. You can pray intercessory prayers with our church, your family, or on your own. There is no special time or place for this type of prayer. You can just pray for people and community concerns as they come to mind during your day.

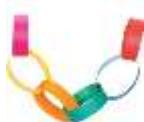
- Light the candle. Allow everyone to share any particular prayer concerns or names of people they would like. Let them know that it is also OK to pray for someone without naming him or her.

Lead the children in a prayer for the needs that were named. Afterward, allow a few moments for the children to pray silently on their own.

### Create a Prayer Chain

*Read Acts 12:1-17 and wonder Together:*

- What would you do if an angel showed up to help you?
- What do you think happened after Peter told the believers at Mary's house what had happened to him?
- Who has prayed for you?



Cut paper into strips. Give each person several strips, and let him or her write the names of people or concerns that he or she would like to pray for.

Create a paper chain by looping the strips of paper together.

Take time as a family to pray for those on your prayer chain throughout the week. As you pray, remember that, just as God answered prayers about Peter, God can answer prayers about those you pray for as well.

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Older Elementary Session 9



## Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool



**Jesus Lives!** John 20:1, 11-18

**Hear the Bible Story** *Tell the Bible story to the children. Act out the story.*

### Playdough Creations

*Give everyone some playdough. Create Easter symbol shapes with the play dough!*

*Talk about the symbols that remind you of Jesus.*



**SAY:** Jesus is not dead! Jesus has risen! Jesus is alive! Happy Easter!

**BLESS:** *(Child's name)*, God loves you. God blesses you. God is always with you. Amen.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to show us your love. Amen.

Adapted from Deep Blue Nursery, Spring 2020 Session 11

## Background for this Week's Elementary Ages Bible Story:

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to "pray continually." In Philippians 4:6, we are told to "bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers." In Ephesians 6:18, we are told to "offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time." The message seems clear; we are to pray! Peter's friends in the early church took these teachings to heart. Peter was in prison as a result of King Herod's persecution of the Christians. The outlook for Peter was bleak. What could his fellow Christians do? They prayed.

Even though Peter's friends were praying for him, they probably did not expect Peter to be freed from prison. It is not likely they were praying for an angel to rescue Peter from prison. If they were, they might not have been so surprised and unbelieving when Peter appeared at their door. It is possible that Peter's friends did not know what specific result they should pray for—they simply knew their response to this situation, as in any situation, should be prayer. So that's what they did.

God heard the prayers lifted up on Peter's behalf, and God answered the prayers. However, the answer was unexpected—God sent an angel to rescue Peter. The female servant who answered the door when Peter arrived was so surprised to see him that she closed the door and left Peter standing outside! She then had a difficult time convincing the others that Peter was indeed there. Even though they were in prayer for Peter, this was not what they really expected.

This story contains some valuable reminders for us. First of all, we are reminded of the importance of praying for others. We can talk with God, not only about our own needs, but also about the needs of others, those we know and love and even those people unknown to us. Even when we are unsure what a person needs, we can still pray for them because God knows. Secondly, sometimes God answers our prayers in unexpected ways. We believe God hears and answers our prayers, yet we need to remember that the answer may not be the one we are expecting.

From Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 10

## Mother's Day

God has given us mothers and other special women in our lives. They have an important job to love us, to teach us about God, to encourage us, and to help us grow in our faith. We set aside this day to thank them for all they do for us and to thank God for giving us people in our lives who encourage us and help us grow in faith.

Try the following activities to honor the special women in your life:



### Flower Printed Bouquet

Create a flower printed bouquet using fresh flowers. Find the instructions here:

<https://www.cokesburykids.com/blog/mothers-day>

### Handprint Prayers

Trace your hand or use paint to make your handprint on a piece of paper. Write 5 prayers for your mom or grandmother or other special women in your life on your handprint. Thank God for the women who take care of you and help you grow in faith!

# HEART. LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



**What you need:**

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

**What you do:**

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.

## 5 THINGS I LOVE ABOUT MY MOM:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## Family Activities for All Ages:

*Note: Prior to starting any activity, be sure to sanitize hands and all supplies. Be sure to practice safe physical distancing.*

- **Sabbath:** In worship over the next few weeks we will be exploring biblical Jubilee, the sabbath of all sabbaths. Sabbath involves both observing and remembering. Set aside time this week for sabbath. Observe and remember that God is with us and is the source of all that we have and all that we are. Learn more here - <https://faithumchurch.wordpress.com/2020/05/09/jubilee-and-sabbath/>
- **Messy Church at Home:** The theme for May is Eating Together and Being Together. Visit the Messy Church page of our website and check out some of the activities you can do at home <https://www.myfaithunited.org/messy-church/>.
- **Thursday, May 7 was National Day of Prayer.** Pray for our country, community and congregation. Check out the National Day of Prayer prayer suggestions and the paper labyrinth on the Worship by Wire webpage. <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-by-wire/>
- **Family Meal:** When you enjoy a meal with your family this week, leave one empty chair at your table. A chair for Jesus! Let this chair be a reminder that Jesus is with you always. Perhaps, you could even ask your families if you could be the cook for a meal this week and serve your family with love and care, just like Jesus did when he cooked the bread and the fish on the beach for his disciples.
- **Chalk your walk!** Use sidewalk chalk to write or draw pictures and messages of encouragement and hope on your sidewalk and driveway. Be a voice of encouragement to those who pass by your home!
- **Look for Easter,** look for signs of new life and resurrection! We also call these **God Sightings**, looking for our good God in the world! Share the God Sightings you find with us. <https://www.myfaithunited.org/god-sightings-looking-for-hope-during-the-pandemic/>
- Sunday School Teacher, Libby Blake's Card Sending Idea, the **Quarantine Correspondence Challenge:** I often get packets of cards from various charities and rarely use them. I'd like to challenge those who have any kind of greeting or note cards to open their address books and start sending one a day. When I was undergoing cancer treatment, Terry, my college roomie and life-long friend sent me a card-a-day for over two months! She used up all the miscellaneous cards she had bought over the years and had never sent. It was hilarious to receive cards with messages that had nothing to do with my situation! I am a card maker in my spare time. My goal is to end this quarantine time, no matter how long, with NO CARDS LEFT! I'd love to know if you'll give this a try and also if you hear back!
- **Participate in a church-wide Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Mosaic Coloring Project!** We are looking for 13 more persons (all ages) to participate in a church-wide Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Mosaic Coloring Project. You would need to be able to print out an 8 ½ X 11 paper, color it and mail (or email if you can scan) back to Kathy Schmucker at the church. You will have about 2 weeks to complete before we need them. Please let Kathy know if you are interested! Please share with your groups and invite others to participate! This will be a fun way to participate in a church activity together, even though we are physically apart!
- **Pray the LORD'S PRAYER** each day at noon. Create a video of your family praying the Lord's Prayer that we could share as encouragement for others. Let me know if you are interested!
- Use, individually or as a family, the worship resources connected with Sunday and Wednesdays Worship by Wire. Visit our website for updated resources: <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-by-wire/>
- Share pictures or videos of some of the activities you and your family are doing while practicing physical distancing with church staff. What you share may inspire someone else!