

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 3/28/21

SCRIPTURE: Acts 12

LESSON: Peter Escaped From Prison



INTRO

Parents say to your kid(s) - Last week we talked about people from the Bible who were very faithful even when life was difficult. Today we are going to learn about someone who was very faithful, even when he was in prison!

Silent Escape - Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.

Have one child play Peter and everyone else should stand in a circle around Peter facing away from them, a little more than an arms length apart with their eyes closed as "guards". Peter's goal is to escape the circle without getting caught. If one of the guards thinks they hear Peter escaping, they should open their eyes and try to tag them. Make the game even harder by placing things around the circle that will make noise if they are hit by "Peter" on their way out.

Say - Today we are going to learn about one of Jesus' followers Peter, he had a big help escaping from prison.



LESSON - PETER ESCAPED FROM PRISON

Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Peter Escaped From Prison](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

Peter was in prison even though he didn't do anything wrong. (Kids repeat!)

King Herod had been putting Jesus's followers in prison and killing them. He just killed one of Jesus' disciples, James who was Jesus' half-brother! And now King Herod has thrown Peter in prison too! King Herod had plans to kill Peter just like James. When the members of the church heard about it, they prayed for God to save Peter.

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

God rescued Peter from prison. (Kids repeat!)

The night before Peter was going to be executed, an Angel of the Lord came onto him while he was asleep and led him out of the prison. They walked right past the prison guards! Peter was surprised and couldn't believe what had happened to him at first. When he realized it was God who freed him and he was overjoyed!

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

The church rejoiced because God rescued Peter. (Kids repeat!)

After leaving the prison, Peter ran to Mary's house where other believers were gathered and praying. They were very happy to see he was alive and that God answered their prayers in such a miraculous way!

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Jesus was imprisoned (and even killed!) even though He didn't do anything wrong. (kids repeat)

Peter was imprisoned and sentenced to death even though he didn't do anything wrong. But Peter isn't the real hero in this story! His suffering reminds us of Jesus'

suffering. Jesus was imprisoned even though He never did anything wrong in His entire life. He wasn't just sentenced to die... He did die on the cross! And while God sending angels to rescue Peter from prison is awesome... It's even more awesome that God rescued Jesus from the grave! When you know what Jesus went through to love you, it sets you free to go through anything to help people know more about Him. That's why Peter was willing to suffer like he did. That's why the church prayed fervently with hope.



RESPONSE

Sing: [I am With You Always](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Good Good Father](#)

Pray: Dear Lord, thank You for being a God that answers our prayers. I pray we can be as bold as Peter was, and spread the Gospel to everyone that needs to hear it. We need You and we love You. Amen

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- Why was Peter arrested? *Herod was persecuting Christians; (Acts 12:1-4)*
- How did the church respond to Peter being put in jail? *They prayed for him (Acts 12:5)*
- How did the church respond to Peter's escape? *With joy and amazement, (Acts 12:14-16)*
- Have you ever been mistreated because of your belief in Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss the kinds of mistreatment they face, such as bullying, teasing, or being excluded from activities.*
- How do you think we should respond if we are mistreated? *Help kids think through appropriate ways to respond to mistreatment. Point them back to the Bible story, reminding them that Peter didn't try to fight his way out of prison. The church did not try to break Peter out either. They prayed and trusted God.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know but will try to find out.*
 - *If you have any questions you are really stumped on, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#) of Peter

Parent Share - Peter's friends prayed for him to be rescued from prison, and he was! Tell kids about a time in your life when God answered a big prayer.

Shoe Shake Up - Sit in a circle and have everyone throw one shoe in the middle. Then, everyone grabs a shoe that isn't theirs. Pick a person to start the game by returning the shoe to its owner and encourage them. The person who got their shoe back goes next until everyone has gotten their shoe back and some encouragement!