



# Peter Escapes from Prison

Acts 12:1-18

Every day more and more people believed that Jesus is God's Son. But some leaders wanted to stop Jesus' friends from telling others about Jesus. They even put some of Jesus' friends in prison!

One day Jesus' friend Peter was put in prison. Peter's friends began to pray to God for help. Peter had chains around him. But that couldn't stop God! One night God sent an angel to Peter.

"Quick, get up!" the angel said. Peter looked down. The chains around him fell off his hands! Peter got dressed and followed the angel. The guards were all asleep. The gates to the prison opened. Peter and the angel walked outside into the street.

Peter thought he was dreaming. Then the angel was gone! Peter knew that God had rescued him from the prison! Peter walked right to the house where he knew his friends were praying for God's help. Peter couldn't wait to tell them what God had done! He knocked at the door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the knock. Before she answered the door, she asked, "Who is it?"

"It's me!" said Peter.

Rhoda knew that voice! She was so excited she forgot to answer the door! She ran back to tell the people who were praying. "PETER is at the door!" she shouted.

Everyone looked up at her in surprise. "You're wrong," some of them said.

"No!" she said. "It's really Peter!" All this time Peter was still knocking at the door! Finally his friends opened the door. Peter's friends were amazed. God had been with Peter, even in prison. And God had answered their prayers!

# Town Mural

## Collect

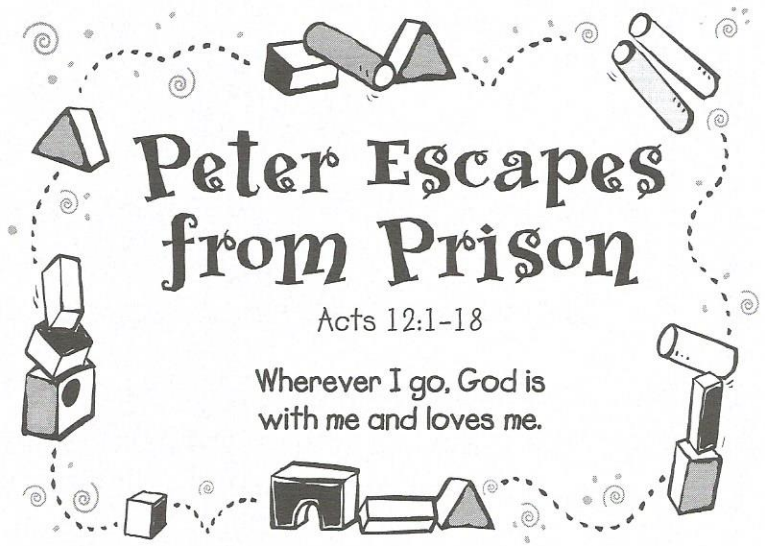
Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, markers, masking tape, construction paper, scissors, glue.

## Prepare

On butcher paper, draw several roads and intersections (see sketch). Tape the butcher paper to table. Cut construction paper into several geometric shapes (squares, rectangles, triangles, etc.).

## Do

Children glue construction-paper shapes onto butcher paper to form houses and other buildings. Using markers, children add trees, people, cars and other decorations to mural.



## Peter Escapes from Prison

Acts 12:1-18

Wherever I go, God is with me and loves me.

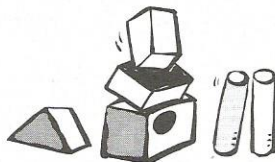
## Talk About

- ☺ In today's Bible story, Peter was put in prison for telling people about Jesus. God sent an angel to help him. Peter walked right out of prison, through the town and over to the house where his friends were praying. God was with Peter. God is with us wherever we go, too! Let's make a picture of some of the places we go.
- ☺ Bonnie, I see that you are drawing a house. Whose house is it? What are some places you like to go to? God is with you there.
- ☺ Rusty, where does your mom take you to buy your food? God is with you when you go to the store. God is with you wherever you go!



## Enrichment Ideas

1. Ask children to name buildings they make (Tom's house, grocery store, restaurant, etc.). Print the names children tell you on index cards. Children tape name cards to their buildings.
2. Provide toy people for children to use in playing with completed mural.





# THE ANGEL FREES PETER FROM JAIL

## Acts 12:1-18

**What Kids Will Do:** Make chains to go on their wrists, just like Peter might have worn.

**What Kids Will Need:** colorful paper clips, plastic milk jugs, hole punch, colored pencils, scissors, permanent marker

**Preparation Place:** Cut circles from a plastic milk jug, using the lid as a size guide. Make a hole in the top of each disk. Use a permanent marker to draw a very simple angel on each circle. You'll need one disk for each child.

### EASY Steps COLORFUL CHAINS

1. Give each child approximately sixteen colored paper clips. Demonstrate how to loop the clips together by placing the large outer loop over the smaller inside loop.
2. Once children have hooked several clips together, check for size, then help each child hook one end to the other to form a bracelet.
3. Let children wear their chain bracelets as they color the angel disks with colored pencils.
4. Let each child slide a paper clip through the hole in the angel disk and then hook it onto the bracelet for a charm.

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### PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

Let children wear their chains while you read Acts 12:1-18 aloud from an easy-to-understand Bible translation. Then ask:

- **What would be the worst thing about having to wear chains around your wrists?**
- **What do you think Peter's chains would have been like?**
- **How do you think he felt when the chains fell off?**

Say: **Most likely, Peter wasn't very comfortable when he wore chains. But the chains you made today are light and pretty! They also have angels on them to remind you that God sent an angel to help Peter. God helps us every day. Let's pray and thank God for loving us and helping us.**

Have the children hold hands to form a sort of chain, then lead them in prayer.

### WOWS that work

If you don't have enough milk jugs to make the charms, lightweight cardboard, poster board, or card stock would also work. Older children may also draw their own angels.

# THE ANGEL FREES PETER FROM JAIL

Acts 12:1-18

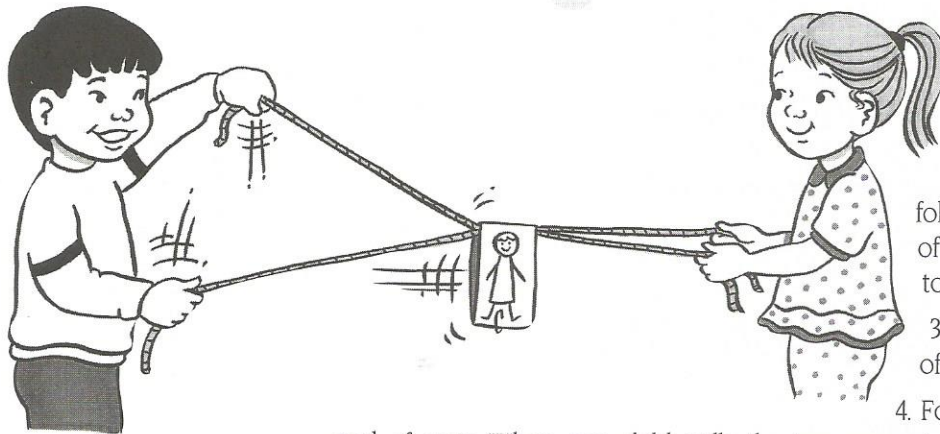
**What Kids Will Do:** Make zip-line toys to remind them that the angel freed Peter from jail.

**What Kids Will Need:** white card stock, yarn, crayons, drinking straws, tape, paper clips, scissors

**Preparation Place:** Cut two 36-inch pieces of yarn, one 3x8-inch strip of card stock, and one 2½-inch straw for each child. Set all supplies in center of table for children to share.

## EASY Steps

## ZIP-LINE PETER



1. Give each child a piece of card stock, and instruct children to fold it in half. Then have children color an angel on one side and Peter on the other.

2. Help children tape the straw into the fold and use the paper clip at the bottom of the card stock to hold both sides together.

3. Guide children as they slide both pieces of yarn through the straw.

4. Form pairs and have each child hold one end of yarn. When one child pulls the two yarn pieces apart, it will send the angel to the other end. Then the partner can pull his or her yarn apart and send it back.

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## WOWS that work

To make it easier for the children to slide the yarn pieces through the straws, tape the two pieces of yarn together at one end. This will make the end stiff enough that it will slide right through. Cut off the tape once the children have the yarn through the straws.

## PRESCHOOL CONNECTION

When children have finished, collect craft supplies. Read Acts 12:1-18 from a preschool-friendly Bible translation. Then ask:

- Who leads you places when you go out?
- Who was leading Peter out of jail?
- Why do you think Rhoda was so surprised to see Peter at her house?

Say: **Let's play with our craft one more time and pretend that one person is the jail and the other person is Rhoda's house. When I say "pull," we will move the angel and Peter down the street. Ready? Pull!** Allow the children to take several turns sending the paper back and forth.

## 257. PETER IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

(ACTS 12:1-19)



"And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands."

**ACTS 12:7**