

Peter

Acts 12:1-17

Prayer

Dear Jesus, You have promised to never leave us or forsake us. We do not ever need to be afraid because You are with us. You are with us when we are sad and when we are happy. You are with us when things are going well and when difficult times come. Thank You for loving us and caring for us. Thank You for answering our prayers. Amen.

Family devotions

SUNDAY

Psalms 71:1-6

MONDAY

Daniel 6:16-27

TUESDAY

Joshua 1:9

WEDNESDAY

Acts 12:5-11

THURSDAY

Psalms 68:19-20, 32-35

FRIDAY

Psalms 119:169-175

SATURDAY

Psalms 100:1-5

Did you know?

- * Early Christians often gathered in their homes to worship and pray.
- * In prison, Peter was guarded by four squads of four soldiers, was sleeping between two soldiers, and was bound with two chains (Acts 12:4-6).
- * Shortly after Peter's escape from prison, King Herod was struck by an angel and died (Acts 12:21-23).

Family activity

- * Talk about God's faithfulness. Invite each family member to tell about how God answered a personal prayer or protected from harm or danger.
- * Visit a jailhouse at a heritage museum. Talk about what it would have been like to be in jail, especially for not doing anything wrong. Act out the story of Peter's rescue.
- * Pray for someone in your family or church who is going through a difficult time.

What's it all about?

After Peter was imprisoned for preaching about Jesus, the Christians began praying for him. Much to their surprise, their prayers resulted in the miraculous delivery of Peter out of prison the night before he was to be executed.

We say it routinely in our prayers, "Lord, please protect my family." We can't be with our children at all times, but God is always there, even when bad things happen. Psalm 91:11 says, "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to guard you in all your ways."

We may never know on this earth the times that a wrong turn, an unplanned phone call, or some unexpected guest has been God's way of protecting us. As we pray for our families, let us remember that God may not always keep us or our loved ones from physical harm. However, He *will* give us strength to endure these difficult situations and also promises to work all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Songs to sing

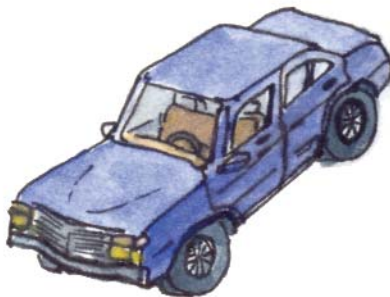
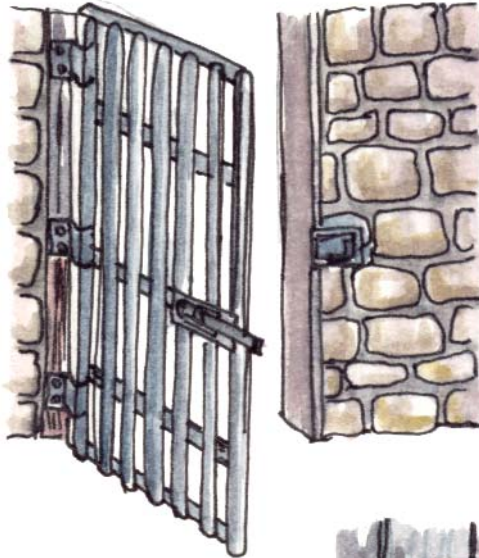
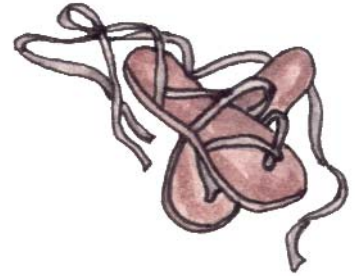
"Jesus Listens When I Pray"
 "Rejoice in the Lord Always"
 "I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus"

Memory verse

And [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." *Mark 16:15*

Peter's Escape

Listen carefully to the story about Peter.
Circle the objects you hear mentioned in the story.



God rescues Peter

Acts 12:1-17

A king named Herod was very cruel to the people who believed in Jesus. Herod had a man named James put to death. James was a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Then Herod arrested another disciple, Peter, and put him in prison. While Peter was in prison, his friends were praying for him.

One night Peter was asleep, chained between two guards. Suddenly, there was a bright light, and an angel of the Lord appeared. The angel woke Peter and said, "Get up quickly!" The chains fell off Peter's wrists. The angel told Peter to put on his clothes and his sandals and follow him. Peter thought he was having a dream.

Memory verse

And [Jesus] said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Mark 16:15

The angel led Peter past all the guards and out through the big iron gate. The gate opened all by itself! Peter and the angel walked down one street, and suddenly the angel was gone. Then Peter knew he was not dreaming and that God had sent an angel to rescue him.

Peter went to the house where his friends were praying for him. When Peter knocked on the door, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she heard Peter's voice, she got so excited she forgot to let him in! She ran back and told the others, "Peter is at the door!"

"It can't be Peter. He is in prison," they told her. But Rhoda insisted it really was Peter.

Peter kept on knocking. When they opened the door, they were very surprised. Then Peter told them how God had sent an angel to bring him out of the prison. God had rescued him!