

Lesson 12

God Rescues Peter

Bible Lesson: Acts 12:1-17

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

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ◆ that a king named Herod put Peter, a disciple, in prison
- ◆ that while Peter was in prison his friends prayed for his safety
- ◆ that God sent an angel to help Peter escape from prison
- ◆ that Peter went to the house of his friends after his rescue
- ◆ that Peter’s friends didn’t believe that it was Peter knocking at the door

Prepare Materials:

- ◆ Bible
- ◆ Illustrated door knob hanger for classroom door
- ◆ Large door knob hanger – one for each child

- ◆ Pictures of a variety of door and/or door knockers
- ◆ Door knockers - optional
- ◆ Crayons
- ◆ Markers
- ◆ Copies of Bible verse – one for each child’s door knob hanger
- ◆ Party supplies – see Celebration Center
- ◆ Pictures and illustrations used throughout the Sunday school year
- ◆ Visual aid for memory verse
- ◆ Leaflet 12
- ◆ Pencils
- ◆ Assorted lighted colored construction paper cut into 5x1-1/2 inch strips – see Activity for Bible verse instruction
- ◆ Glue
- ◆ Play clothes and props – see Role Play Activity
- ◆ Illustration for theme hymn

BIBLE BACKGROUND

To be added.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome with Love

Place an illustrated door knob hanger on your classroom door indicating that one needs to knock before entering. Close the door and wait for the children to come to class. Wait right inside the door to be ready to let them in when they knock.

As the children knock, open the door and greet them as if you are greeting a guest at your

home. Welcome the children in and ask them to sit down. When all the children are present, close the door and sit down with the children.

Ask the children to tell you how you knew when someone was at the door. Briefly discuss going to someone’s house to visit and how you would alert that someone that you had arrived. Talk about whether or not you would expect to be asked into the house or if you would expect to remain outside of the house.

Tell the children that in today's lesson a man knocked on a friend's house and was left standing outside.

Use a Learning Center

REVIEW CENTER –

ASK some of the following questions for review. Use any illustrations, objects and pictures to aid in the review. Try to include previous memory verses.

- ◆ While traveling to Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples to find something for Him in a village outside of Jerusalem. What were they to find? (*A young donkey that had never been written.*)
- ◆ What did Jesus do with the young donkey? (*He rode the donkey into Jerusalem.*)
- ◆ What did the people in the streets do when they saw Jesus on the donkey? (*They put their coats on the road. They spread palm branches on the road. They shouted, "Hosanna!"*)
- ◆ What did the people honor Jesus as? (*King*)
- ◆ Who was the parade's special guest of honor? (*Jesus*)
- ◆ What happened one night while Jesus was praying in a garden? (*Soldiers came to arrest Him.*)
- ◆ Did Jesus run and hid from the men and soldiers? (*No*)
- ◆ How did the soldiers make Jesus bleed? (*They beat Him and put a crown of thorns on His head.*)
- ◆ What did Jesus' enemies say they wanted done with Jesus? (*They wanted Him crucified*)
- ◆ Was Jesus crucified? (*Yes*)
- ◆ Was Jesus really dead? (*Yes*)
- ◆ What did Jesus' friends do with His body after It was taken from the cross? (*They wrapped His body in clean cloths and put Him in a tomb.*)
- ◆ What was rolled in front of the entrance of the tomb? (*A big heavy stone*)
- ◆ Who was guarding the tomb so no one would take Jesus' body away? (*Soldiers*)
- ◆ When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, what did she find? (*The stone was rolled away and Jesus was not there.*)
- ◆ What did she do after she discovered the tomb was empty? (*She ran and told her friends, Jesus' disciples*)
- ◆ Two of Jesus' disciples ran to see the tomb. What did they find? (*An empty tomb with the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus lying there and Jesus gone*)
- ◆ Mary Magdalene stayed near the tomb. Who did she see at the tomb? (*First she saw two angels and then she saw Jesus*)
- ◆ How could it be Jesus if He was dead? (*Jesus had risen from the dead. He was alive.*)
- ◆ Was Jesus really alive? (*Yes*)
- ◆ Who did Jesus say He would send to His followers after He went back to heaven? (*The Holy Spirit*)
- ◆ What would the Holy Spirit do for the followers? (*The Holy Spirit would give them power to tell others about Jesus*)
- ◆ After the gift of the Holy Spirit, what were the disciples able to do? (*Speak in many different languages, so that all the people gathered around from different countries could understand what they were saying.*)
- ◆ Which disciple stood up and preached about Jesus? (*Peter*)
- ◆ What did many of the people who listened to Peter do? (*They believed in Jesus.*)
- ◆ In what land were God's people, the Israelites slaves? (*Egypt*)
- ◆ As slaves, what did the Israelites have to do for the Pharaoh? (*They had to work very hard.*)
- ◆ What rule did Pharaoh make in regards to the baby boys? (*The rule said that all baby boys born to the Israelites were to be killed.*)
- ◆ What did one mother do to save her baby boy? (*She hid him in a basket and placed it in the river.*)
- ◆ Who watched over the baby in the basket? (*His sister, Miriam*)
- ◆ Who found the baby? (*The Pharaoh's daughter*)
- ◆ What did she do with the baby? (*She kept him as her own child.*)
- ◆ Who took care of the baby until he was old enough to go to the palace? (*The baby's own mother*)
- ◆ What was the baby's name? (*Moses*)
- ◆ What special plan did God have for Moses? (*When he was older, he would lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.*)

- ◆ What was the name of the woman who prayed for a son and promised to give him back to God? (*Hannah*)
- ◆ Did God give Hannah a son? (*Yes*)
- ◆ What did Hannah name her son? (*Samuel*)
- ◆ Was Hannah happy about having a son? (*Yes. She prayed to God and thanked Him and praised Him for being such a great God.*)
- ◆ After Hannah took Samuel to the temple, who taught him about God? (*Eli, the priest*)
- ◆ Who called Samuel in the middle of the night? (*God*)
- ◆ How did Samuel answer God? (*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*)
- ◆ What had God called Samuel to be? (*A Prophet – a man who brings God’s messages to people.*)
- ◆ Who is your neighbor? (*Everyone*)
- ◆ What did some robbers do to a man who was traveling on trip? (*They beat him, took his clothes and all his things and left him to die.*)
- ◆ What did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the dying man? (*They did not stop.*)
- ◆ What did the Samaritan do when he saw the dying man? (*He took care of the hurt man’s wounds and paid an innkeeper to take care of him.*)
- ◆ Which of the three men acted like a neighbor to the hurt man? (*The Samaritan man*)
- ◆ What did Jesus say that we should learn from this story? (*To do as the Samaritan man – be kind to others*)
- ◆ Why do we give money during church or Sunday school? (*We love Jesus and want to help in His work.*)
- ◆ One day, Jesus watched people give their offerings to God in the temple. What did he see? (*He saw rich people giving a lot of money and others giving a little.*)
- ◆ A widow came to give her offering. Tell about the widow. (*She was very poor and gave all the money she had.*)
- ◆ What did the widow’s offering show? (*It showed how much she loved God.*)
- ◆ Did the widow know that God would take care of her even though she didn’t have any money? (*Yes*)
- ◆ Does God take care of us? (*Yes*)
- ◆ How can we show our love for God? (*By bringing our offerings to Him*)
- ◆ Who was Tabitha? (*A woman who had Jesus in her heart and loved Him.*)
- ◆ What did Tabitha do that showed she loved Jesus? (*She was kind to everyone and did many good things to help the poor people.*)
- ◆ What happened to Tabitha one day? (*She became sick.*)
- ◆ Did she die? (*Yes*)
- ◆ Were Tabitha’s friends sad? (*Yes*)
- ◆ What did they do? (*They prepared Tabitha’s body for burial and sent for Peter.*)
- ◆ What did Peter do when he arrived at Tabitha’s house? (*He got on his knees and prayed.*)
- ◆ What did Peter tell Tabitha to do? (*Get up!*)
- ◆ Did Tabitha get up? (*Yes. She was alive again.*)
- ◆ Who gave the power to Peter that allowed Tabitha to become alive again. (*Jesus*)
- ◆ What did many people do when they saw Tabitha alive again? (*They believed in Jesus.*)
- ◆ What was the name of the disciples’ helper in today’s lesson? (*Stephen*)
- ◆ What did God’s power help Stephen to do? (*He did many miracles and boldly told people about Jesus.*)
- ◆ What was a result of Stephen’s preaching? (*Many people came to believe in Jesus.*)
- ◆ Did everybody like Stephen telling about Jesus? (*No*)
- ◆ What did these men want to have happen to Stephen? (*They wanted to get Stephen in trouble.*)
- ◆ What did they do to get Stephen in trouble? (*They found men who would tell lies about Stephen.*)
- ◆ What lies did the men tell about Stephen? (*They said that Stephen spoke against God and the temple of God.*)
- ◆ What did Stephen say in response to these lies? (*He said that they had sinful hearts and were not listening to God.*)
- ◆ What did the angry people do to Stephen? (*They took Stephen out of the city and stoned him.*)
- ◆ What did Stephen pray as he was being stoned? (*Lord, please forgive these people.*)
- ◆ Saul was known as what kind of person by the Christians? (*He was their enemy and wanted to throw the Christians in jail.*)

- ◆ What flashed before Saul's eyes on his way to Damascus? (*A very bright light from heaven.*)
- ◆ Who spoke to Saul from the light? (*Jesus*)
- ◆ What did Jesus ask Saul? (*Saul, why are you hurting me?*)
- ◆ What was wrong with Saul after the light left? (*He was blind.*)
- ◆ Jesus told one of His followers in Damascus to find Saul and help him. What was his name? (*Ananias*)
- ◆ What was Ananias able to do for Saul? (*He caused Saul to see again.*)
- ◆ What did Ananias tell Saul to do? (*Be baptized and be forgiven.*)
- ◆ What important job had Jesus called Saul to do? (*Saul was to become a missionary.*)
- ◆ What was the other name Saul was known by? (*Paul*)

ART CENTER - GUESS WHO IS KNOCKING AT MY DOOR

Prior to class cut out a large door knob hanger for each child. Also, gather pictures of a variety of doors and/or door knockers or if possible bring a couple door knockers to class.

Spread the pictures and/or door knockers on the center table. Discuss with the children what they see in the pictures and for what the door knocker are used. Maybe you would like to have each child pick a picture that he/she particularly likes, and allow each child to describe his/her picture to the rest of the class.

Give each child a door knob hanger and allow them to decorate it using a variety of methods, such as crayons and markers. Help the children glue a copy of the Bible verse to his/her door knob hanger.

Explain to the children that the hanger is to be placed on the outside of a door in order to give a message to anyone who wishes to enter. Tell the children that they can take their hangers home to hang on their door. Their hangers will tell anyone who wishes to enter to "Go preach the gospel".

Tell the children that they will also be remind of today's lesson about a man who came knocking on a friend's door after some amazing events happened to him.

CELEBRATION CENTER - THE END IS HERE

Have a Sunday school year end and summer kick – off celebration. Be as simple or as elaborate as you choose.

Set up your party prior to class time in a special area of your classroom. You may want to include decorations, snacks and drinks. Set out any pictures and illustrations used throughout the school year if they are not still on the wall.

Gather the children in the center and explain to them that it is the last day of Sunday school before summer. Tell them they are going to have a party in honor of the day.

During the celebration look through or at the pictures and illustrations and review what was taught and learned throughout the year. Recite the memory verses and/or sing the theme hymns.

Have a brief prayer at some point in the celebration, thanking God for the blessings given during the past Sunday school year.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Sing the Message

Following is a small list of songs that help reinforce the message presented in the lesson. All the songs need not be song. Just pick one or two, and sing the number of verses appropriate for your class size, age and time. These songs are meant as supplemental material.

SING "I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus" p. 376 Ambassador Hymnal

SING "Rejoice in the Lord Always" p. 44 Songs of God and Me

SING "Holy, Holy, Holy" p. 6 Songs of God and Me

SING "My God is So Big" p. 23 Songs of God and Me

Pray the Message

- ◆ Thank God for His word, the Bible, that He has given us so that we can learn more about Him.
- ◆ Thank God for the forgiveness of sins.
- ◆ Thank God for the church and Sunday school that provides a place of fellowship and worship.
- ◆ Thank God for your pastor and his faithfulness to study and to preach the word.
- ◆ Thank God for the lesson today that you are about to read.
- ◆ Ask God to open the children's hearts and minds to learn from His word today.

Learn the New Words

You can either introduce these words before reading the Bible lesson or highlight them as the lesson is read. Ask and explain the meaning as you come to them in the lesson.

Peter a disciple, follower, of Jesus

Prison a building designed to hold criminals, a jail

Guards people who watch over prisoners to prevent escape

Introduce the Message

OPEN your Bible to the lesson text. Tell the children in what book of the Bible today's lesson is found.

Secretly knock on the bottom of the table while the children are busy with their leaflets. Pretend that someone had knocked on the classroom door and go "answer" the door. Open the door a little way and pretend to see someone at the door. Greet the "person" at the door and then close the door. Return to your seat.

Pretend for a few minutes that someone was at the door and that you forgot to let him/her.

Tell the children that some amazing events happened to a man in today's lesson. Tell them that after all the amazing events had

taken place, he went to his friend's house to visit. But when he knocked on the door, he was left outside after the door was opened. The girl who opened the door forgot to have him enter!

Tell the children to listen to find out why he was left outside.

Read/Tell the Message

See student leaflet.

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.

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!

Reinforce the Message

ASK the following questions:

- ◆ Who was the king who was very cruel to the people who believed in Jesus? (*Herod*)
- ◆ Which disciple did Herod have put in prison in today's lesson? (*Peter*)
- ◆ What were Peter's friends doing while Peter was in prison? (*Praying for Peter*)
- ◆ Who entered the prison with Peter and helped him escape? (*An angel*)
- ◆ What happened to the chains that were on Peter's wrists? (*They fell off*)
- ◆ Did the guards that were watching Peter wake up? (*No*)
- ◆ Did Peter and the angel have to break down the prison's iron gate? (*No, it opened all by itself.*)
- ◆ Where did Peter go after the angel left him? (*He went to the house where his friends were praying.*)
- ◆ What happened after Peter knocked on the door? (*A girl, Rhoda, opened the door and seeing it was Peter, ran back to tell the others, leaving Peter outside.*)
- ◆ Where his friends surprised to find Peter standing at the door? (*Yes*)
- ◆ Who had rescued Peter? (*God*)
- ◆ Are we alone when we have Jesus in our hearts? (*No. Jesus is always close beside us.*)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Review the Bible Verse

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

RECITE the memory verse with the children using any visual aids you may have made.

REPEAT the verse together.

ASK the children where Jesus is telling them to preach the gospel.

SING "*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*" p.62
Songs of God and Me

Do the Activities Together

ACTIVITY 1 LEAFLET – *Peter's Escape*



ACTIVITY 2 – ART ACTIVITY – ALL CHAINS ARE LIKE PAPER TO GOD

Prior to class cut strips of paper using a variety of light colored construction paper. The strips of paper should be about 5 inches long and 1 ½ inches wide. Write the Bible verse and reference one word at a time on a variety of

strips. Keep the words in individual piles. Be sure there is enough of each word to make Bible verses for each child. Place the strips in piles according to the Bible verse order.

Help the children gather the Bible verse links one at a time, gluing each link together to form a Bible verse paper chain when all glued together. Allow a few minutes for the chains to dry.

Review the story while the chains are drying. Tell the children that their paper chains represent the chains that fell off Peter when God rescued him from jail. The chains were like paper to God. He just caused the chains to fall off of Peter's wrists.

Peter was in jail for telling people about Jesus. The chains are to remind us of God's awesome power and of being His witnesses. Have the children hold up their chains and "read" the Bible verse together. Tell the children that just like Peter told about Jesus, we are to tell people about Jesus as the Bible verse instructs us to do.

ACTIVITY 3 – ROLE PLAY PETER'S RESCUE

Before class gather play clothes and props that could be used by the children to act out the story of God rescuing Peter from jail. Try to find clothes appropriate for each person in the story, and that fit easily over other clothing. Set up a jail and a house in the classroom and place the clothes where the children will not see them. If the children ask about the jail and

the house just tell them that they will need to listen to the lesson.

During the lesson time, point to the jail and house when they are mentioned.

After the other activities, tell the children that they are going to review the lesson by acting out the story. They are going to be actors/actresses.

Assign everyone a part and help put on the corresponding costume and prop. Have the children act out the story as you read it. Encourage them to act their part out, doing what is said in the story. After you have acted out the story at least once ask a couple of review questions.

Tell the children that Peter loved Jesus so much that he wanted to tell others about Him even though it meant he might go to jail. When we love Jesus we are to tell others about Him and what He has done by washing away our sins, just like Peter did. We should also pray for one another as followers of Jesus, just as Peter's friends prayed for him.

Tell the children to gather their paper chains, if you made them, and say the Bible verse together that is on the chain. Tell the children that when they look at the chain they are to be reminded that they are Jesus' witnesses, and as His witness, they are never alone because Jesus is always with them as He was with Peter.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Teach and Sing

SING verses 1 and 2 of the theme hymn using the hymn illustrations.

ASK the children who is the Savior that loved them first.

SING verses 3 and 4.

REVIEW any songs sung during the lesson.

Memory Verse Review

RECITE the memory verse together before closing prayer. Use the visual aids.

ASK the children to recite the verse together two at a time

ASK the children where they are to go to preach the gospel.

RECITE the memory verse together.

SING together “*For God So Loved the World*” p.69 Salvation Songs Favorites

Pray Together

ASK the children to prepare for pray by folding their hands and closing their eyes.

PRAY. Thank God for the wonderful year of learning about Him at Sunday school. Thank God for each child that was able to come to

Sunday school in the past year. Thank God for His word that can be studied and that can be used to teach of His awesome deeds and ways. Thank God for Jesus, and His fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation. Thank God for His love for us and the care He promises to give us. Ask God to bless each child throughout the summer months and to bring them back to Sunday school in the fall. Thank you, Jesus, Amen.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

Gather and Prepare Materials

Prepare Lesson

Begin your study and preparation with prayer.

Study the Bible Background section for the next lesson.

Pray for each student daily by name.

Read the Bible text:

Learn the Bible Verse:

Read the Teacher Manual

Highlight, underline and add your own notes for teaching the class session.