

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 257: PETER IS RELEASED FROM PRISON
ACTS 12:1-19

During this same time, King Herod began to do harm to some of those who were part of the church. He ordered James, the brother of John, to be killed with a sword. Herod saw that many of the Jews liked this, so he decided to arrest Peter too. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. He arrested Peter and put him in jail, where he was guarded by a group of 16 soldiers. Herod planned to bring Peter before the people, but he wanted to wait until after the Passover festival. So Peter was kept in jail, but the church was constantly praying to God for him. One night, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two of the soldiers. More soldiers were guarding the door of the jail. Herod was planning to bring Peter out in front of the people the next day. Suddenly an angel of the Lord was standing there, and the room was filled with light. The angel tapped Peter on the side and woke him up. The angel said, "Hurry, get up!" The chains fell off Peter's hands. The angel said, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." Peter did as he was told. Then the angel said, "Put on your coat and follow me." So the angel went out and Peter followed. He did not know if the angel was really doing this. He thought he might be seeing a vision. Peter and the angel went past the first guard and the second guard. Then they came to the iron gate that separated them from the city. The gate opened for them by itself. After they went through the gate and walked about a block, the angel suddenly left. Peter realized then what had happened. He thought, "Now I know that the Lord really sent his angel to me. He rescued me from Herod and from everything those Jews thought would happen to me." When Peter realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John, who was also called Mark. Many people were gathered there and were praying. Peter knocked on the outside door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to answer it. She recognized Peter's voice, and she was very happy. She even forgot to open the door. She ran inside and told the group, "Peter is at the door!" The believers said to her, "You are crazy!" But she continued to say that it was true. So they said, "It must be Peter's angel." But Peter continued to knock. When the believers opened the door, they saw him. They were amazed. Peter made a sign with his hand to tell them to be quiet. He explained to them how the Lord led him out of the jail. He said, "Tell James and the other brothers what happened." Then he left and went to another place. The next day the soldiers were very upset. They wondered what happened to Peter. Herod looked everywhere for him but could not find him. So he questioned the guards and then ordered that they be killed. Later, Herod moved from Judea. He went to the city of Caesarea and stayed there a while.

PETER IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

(ACTS 12:1-19)



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ACTS 12:7

257. PETER IS RELEASED FROM PRISON

ACTS 12:1-19

MEMORY VERSE:

"...Now I know that the Lord has sent His angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod." **ACTS 12:11**

Review Questions

True or False

1. About that time, Herod was trying to help some of those who were part of the church.
2. He ordered James the brother of John to be killed with a sword.
3. He saw that it made the Jews angry, so he set Peter free too.
4. When he arrested Peter, he put him in jail.
5. Peter was in prison, but the other believers prayed all the time for him.
6. When Herod was going to bring Peter out in front of all the people, Peter was bound with two chains and sleeping between two soldiers.

Questions

1. What did Herod do to James the brother of John?
2. What did Herod do to Peter?
3. Who appeared when Peter was in jail that night?
4. After Peter was outside the city, whose house did he go to?
5. After Rhoda the servant girl saw Peter at the door and went and told everyone that he was there, did they believe her?
6. Were the soldiers happy when they saw that Peter had escaped?
7. What did Herod do to the soldiers that were guarding Peter in the jail?

Lesson 257 Activities

Question and Answer

Tell the children you want to ask them some questions. Ask individual children simple questions such as “What is your name? What day is it today? Where are you today? Does Pastor Ken wear silly ties?” Gradually switch to more difficult questions like, “What is gasoline made of? What is 23 divided by 3? How many stars are in the sky?”

When the children begin to be unable to answer your questions let them know that God always answers our prayers; and we can NEVER ask Him a question that is too hard for Him! The answer to all of our problems is to take them to the almighty God of the Universe.

Chained Hand Reminder

Cut enough 1”x8.5” strips of colored construction paper for each child to have three strips. Just cut a piece of construction paper long-ways in 1-inch-wide strips. Print enough hand templates for each child to have one. Have each child color the praying hands, and decorate them. Be sure to leave enough room at the wrist area on the sheet at the bottom of the hand for a one-inch slit. Have them write the word pray on both sides (younger children – write ‘pray’ on each side for them in marker). Make paper chains with the paper strips and slip the last one through the one inch slit on the hand sheet.

Explain that the chains represent persecution, but the hands represent prayer in the midst of persecution. Discuss that [when we are persecuted, we must pray](#).

The night before his execution Peter was sound asleep. If you were going to have your head cut off the next day, how well would you sleep? Not to mention being chained between two guards with two more at the door.

The lesson we learn here from Peter is the value of the peace of God. Peter put his complete trust in God. David writes in Psalm 37:37, “Observe the blameless! Take note of the upright! Indeed, the future of that man is peace.”

When you are living for God and your trust is in Him, you will have peace in the midst of the storm.

Key Points:

1. During persecution, trust in the Lord like Peter did, and rest in the peace of God.
2. Pray when we seem to be in impossible situations, and believe God to hear us and to save us.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to pray in light of persecution. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

