

# A JAIL BAIL

Peter Escapes  
Prison  
Acts 12  
AD 43

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God preserves us to serve Him.

### BIBLE VERSE

Count it all joy . . . when you meet trials of various kinds.  
James 1:2

### LEARNER GOAL

I know God hears my prayers and helps me in my troubles.

### LAW & GOSPEL

In this world of sin, I and the whole Church of God will be persecuted on account of Christ. **God works through His Word to break the chains of sin, relieve the suffering it causes, and sustain me and the rest of His Church.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

King Herod launches attacks on the Church, killing James, the brother of John. When Herod sees how much this pleases the Jews, he has Peter imprisoned. Peter is guarded by four squads of soldiers as the Church prays for him. That night, an angel appears and leads Peter past the guards and out of the prison. Peter knocks at the gate of the house where the others are gathered in prayer. A servant girl, Rhoda, answers. She is so excited that she runs to tell the others, leaving Peter to continue knocking. An angel of the Lord strikes Herod down for his pride.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read the Bible text and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Read the leader devotion found in the online digital resource center.

**IN DEPTH** Read the introductory section on The Lord's Prayer and The Seventh Petition in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017).

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Play dough or blocks & toy figures
- ☐ Keys & locks, a variety of chains & slips of paper for paper chains
- ☐ Picture or toy figure of a firefighter or paramedic or a firefighter hat
- ☐ Items for an obstacle course
- ☐ Pretzel sticks, mini marshmallows & teddy-bear graham crackers
- ☐ Poster board cross, lengths of colorful yarn & decorating supplies

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible, songbook & classroom supplies
- ☐ Copies of *Discover Leaflet*, stickers & music downloads
- ☐ Supplies for bonus activities
- ☐ [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



#### LEADER NOTE

Greet each child and show the children where to put their offerings. Direct them to an activity that will connect what they know to what they will learn. If class time is short, omit these and start with Jesus Time.



#### LEADER NOTE

Sing one or more of the suggested songs.



#### LEADER NOTE

Remember to show the children your Bible before you tell the Bible story. Remind them the Bible is the most important book of all because it is God's true words for us. It tells us everything we need to know about God and His Son, Jesus.



#### BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Jail Cells."

# LAUNCH

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

**PLAY DOUGH OR BLOCKS** Show the children how to make play-dough ropes to create chains or jail-cell bars, or set out blocks and toy figures to make jail cells. Say, **In our story today, Peter is in jail.** Talk about what that means. **What do you think happened to Peter?**

**EXPLORATION** Set out a variety of keys, locks, and chains (e.g., jewelry chain, dog chains, paper chain) and strips of paper to make paper chains. Talk about what chains are for. Ask children which chains would be the strongest. Say, **Locks and locked doors and chains are an important part of our story today. We'll see that no lock or chain is stronger than God!**

## JESUS TIME

**SING** "Good Morning, Dear Jesus" (digital resource center) or "God Is So Good" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 57)

**SAY** I'm glad to see all of you here today. I wonder . . . have any of you seen an angel? Do you think they are real? What do they do? We will hear more about angels in our Bible story today.

**PRAY** Thank You,\* Jesus,\* for taking good care of us.\* Thank You\* for our friends\* at Sunday School.\* Help us listen\* and learn more\* about Your love for us.\* Amen.\*

# LEARN

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Show a picture or toy figure of a firefighter or paramedic or of a firefighter hat. Ask, **Who is this a picture of/who wears a hat like this? Yes, a firefighter! What do firefighters do? Yes, they rescue people from trouble when there is a fire or accident. They put fires out to keep people safe. Today we will hear about a surprising rescue in the Bible.**

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the Bible story in your own words, using the *Discover Leaflet* as a guide.

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Say, Peter had troubles. What were they? What did his friends do? How did God answer their prayers and help Peter?

How does God rescue us from sin? (He sent Jesus to save us.) **The Bible says, "Count it all joy . . . when you meet trials of various kinds" (James 1:2). A trial is a trouble.**

**I wonder . . . are you happy when you have troubles?** Let children answer. **I'm not always either. But I can have joy. Do you know why? Because joy is a special kind of happiness that comes from knowing Jesus loves us and is our Savior. So, even when we face troubles, we know we can trust Jesus to be with us. We can pray to Him and know He loves us and will answer our prayers in a way that is best. Let's say our Bible words together.** Lead children in saying words, then switch parts.

Boys **Count it all joy . . .**

Girls **when you meet trials of various kinds.**

# LIVE

## DISCOVER LESSON TRUTHS

Separate each *Discover Leaflet* into two pages. Send the first page home with each child, or put the page into a purchased binder. Hand out the second page, stickers, and crayons.

**SIDE 1** Have the children color the chains and Peter's clothing. Say, **When Peter was in jail, he was in big trouble! How did God answer his friends' prayer for him?**

**SIDE 2** Say, **God wants us to pray to Him too. This page will help us learn about prayer. Trace the heart and add a Jesus sticker. God wants us to believe in Jesus as our Savior. He promises to answer our prayers.** Ask what the arrows look like. (A cross). **The cross can remind us of things to pray for. Let's think about what these children could say in a prayer to God.**

Have the children use a finger to trace the arrow pointing up. **A good place to start a prayer is with God. This arrow says "Praise and Thanks." We can praise and thank God for His love and forgiveness. We can thank Him for His gifts.** Read the statement about Enrico and ask what he might tell God in a prayer (e.g., thank You for my puppy).

Have the children use their finger to trace the arrow pointing down. **It's also good to be sorry for things we do wrong and ask God to forgive us. What can Maria pray for?** (Forgiveness). Talk about how Jesus forgives our sins and helps us live as His children.

Have the children follow the arrow pointing left. **God wants us to ask for the things we need.** Talk about the girl who is hurt and the boy who is afraid, asking what they could say in a prayer to God and how God might answer.

Have the children follow the arrow pointing right. **God also wants us to pray for others too.** Talk about the grandpa who is sick and the hungry people, asking the children what they could say in a prayer for them.

## ENGAGE IN ACTIVE LEARNING

Take time to reinforce lesson truths with one or more of these active-learning options. Turn to "Active Learning" on the back page for instructions to do the activities below.

### □ MOVE

Have the children follow the angel out of jail through an obstacle course or by playing follow the leader.

### □ SNACK

Make jail cells using stick pretzels, mini marshmallows, and teddy bear graham crackers.

### □ CREATE

Make a yarn cross to talk about how Jesus rescues us.

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Help the children learn that prayer is talking to God. Ask, **What are things you can pray for? How might God answer?** Remind the children that God might answer our prayers with yes, no, or wait. But He always answers them in the way that is best.

# LEAVE

**SING** "Father, Hear My Prayer" (digital resource center) or "We Love" (*Little Ones Sing Praise*, p. 54)

**SAY** **Peter's friends prayed for Peter's safety and God heard their prayer. God wants us to pray to Him too. He will help us in the way that is best.**

**PRAY** **Dear God, when I have problems, help me remember to talk to You in prayer. Help me trust that You can help in the way You know is best. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.**



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus frees us from the prison of sin and death and leads us to eternal life.



### LEADER NOTE

Remember to provide a snack option for those with allergies.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Make "Prayer Necklaces."



### LEADER NOTE

Tell the children that prayer is talking to God. We can use our words, think our prayer, or use a prayer from a book. No matter how big or little we are, God always listens when we pray, trusting in Jesus.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

For an interactive closing prayer, have the children do the actions and say "I will pray" in "Prayer Time."

## ACTIVE LEARNING

### □ MOVE

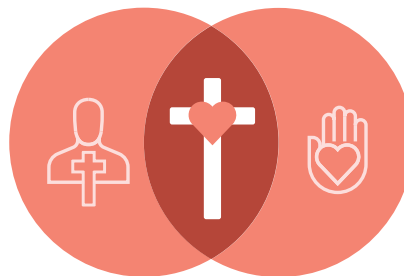
Create an obstacle course using large boxes, chairs, pillows, and tables, or play follow the leader. Choose one of the children to be the angel. The other children should follow the angel out of jail along the obstacle course (under the table, over the pillows, around the chairs, etc.) or just follow the angel, walking around chairs and copying the angel's actions (e.g., clapping, hopping, taking giant steps). Relate to the story.

### □ SNACK

Make a jail with pretzel sticks and mini marshmallows (e.g., put a mini marshmallow on one end of each of four pretzels. Connect into a rectangle. Make more rectangles and connect them to make a cell. Add teddy bear graham crackers to represent Peter and the guards.

### □ CREATE

Say, **God heard all the prayers for Peter. How did He rescue Peter? Yes, God sent an angel to free Peter from jail. God rescued you and me in an even more amazing way! How? (Through Jesus) Jesus saved us from sin! He promises to be with us. He hears our prayers and helps us with our troubles.** Cut out a large cross from poster board for each child. Show how or help children to cut slits about an inch apart around the cross. Give the children 2-foot lengths of colorful yarn to wrap around the cross, securing the yarn in the slits as they wrap. Children can use different colors and wrap the cross in different ways to make different patterns. Secure loose ends with tape on the back. Punch a hole in the top and attach a yarn loop for a hanger. *Option:* "Sew" around the edge. Decorate the center.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God sets me free from sin and death through His Son.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to free me so that I can share His message with others.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can express how God works to preserve His people, even in the midst of persecution and great difficulty.

### YOUTH

I can share how God cares for me and leads me to serve Him.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God keeps us safe and helps us to serve Him.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God hears my prayers and helps me in my troubles.

## ★ BONUS ACTIVITIES

### JAIL CELLS

10 minutes

Set out plastic foam bases, pipe cleaners, and beads. Show the children how to stick the pipe cleaners into the bases and thread them with beads to resemble bars. Say, **In our story today, God's helper Peter is in jail. But God rescues him in an amazing way.**

### PRAYER NECKLACES

15 minutes

Cut paper strips and use bonus stickers to make paper chains. Say, **Sometimes we don't know what to pray about or we forget. Let's make a paper chain to help us remember.** Make a red loop. **Red reminds us of love. It can remind us to pray for those we love.** Continue with other colors (e.g., green reminds us to thank God for things that grow like our food; blue reminds us to thank Him for water and Baptism; yellow reminds us to praise Him; brown reminds us to pray for the sick).

### PRAYER TIME

5 minutes

Pray, **To praise You for making me (point to self), I will pray (fold hands). To thank You for dying on the cross (make finger cross), I will pray (fold hands). To thank You for keeping me safe (hug self), I will pray (fold hands). When I'm afraid (cover head), I will pray (fold hands). When I feel sick (rub tummy), I will pray (fold hands). When I am sad (wipe tears), I will pray (fold hands). For others (point), I will pray (fold hands). In Jesus' name (point up), I will pray (fold hands). Amen.**