

PEOPLE PRAYED FOR PETER



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

Include the children in the distribution of the snack. Ask for one or more volunteers to pray. Lead the boys and girls to clean up after the snack.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

- » Lead the children to gallop or skip to group time. Tell them that today they will hear about a surprising answer to prayer for Peter. Open the Bible to Acts 12 and encourage them to listen carefully as you tell the story.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

PEOPLE PRAYED FOR PETER—BASED ON ACTS 12:1-19

- » Ask the boys and girls if they can remember a time God answered a prayer for them. Tell them that in today's story God answered people's prayers in a surprising way.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

- » Peter told many people about Jesus.
- » The king did not want people to hear about Jesus. He put Peter in jail.
- » Peter's friends prayed for him.
- » An angel appeared to Peter and said, "Quick, get up." Chains fell off Peter and the gates were unlocked.
- » The angel said, "Follow me," and Peter obeyed. The angel led Peter into the city. The angel left.
- » Peter knew God sent the angel. Peter went to the house where his friends were praying for him. Peter's friends were surprised to see him.
- » Peter told his friends how God had helped Him.
- » Peter thanked his friends for praying for him. Peter left to go to another place.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- » Who prayed for Peter while he was in jail?
- » What happened when the angel appeared to Peter?
- » What did Peter thank his church friends for?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- » Tell the children that people at church pray to God.

ROOM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER(S)

DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

People at church worship by singing, talking to God, and listening to Bible stories.

LIFE POINT

People at church pray to God.

UNIT VERSE

Come, let us worship God.
Psalm 95:6

WEEKLY VERSE

Pray for one another.
James 5:16

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

Friends at church will pray for you,

Pray for you, pray for you.

Friends at church will pray for you.

They'll pray for you today.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Help a child open the Bible to the verse marker in James 5:16 and repeat the verse: “Pray for one another.” Encourage the children to take turns standing up and repeating the verse.

PRAY

Ask the children to name someone they can pray for and guide them to take turns saying a prayer thanking God for that person.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: People at church pray to God.

- 1. Form play dough letters.** Write *PRAY* in large letters on a sheet of paper. Assist the children in rolling play dough into long ropes. Point to the word on the sheet of paper. Tap each letter as you spell *pray*. Then say the word. Demonstrate how to lay a play dough rope on the sheet of paper on top of one of the letters. Continue to help as needed. Remind the boys and girls that Peter’s friends prayed for him. Say the Weekly Verse. Suggest the preschoolers pray for their friends. Remark if you know one of them is sick or traveling and how you could pray for him.
- 2. Tell about Jesus.** Ask the preschoolers why the king put Peter in Jail. Allow time for responses before commenting that Peter was telling about Jesus and the king did not want people to know about Jesus. Ask if they remember what Peter’s friends did for him. Encourage the children to take turns standing on a low stool or step as they tell about Jesus. Suggest they say: “Jesus loves you!” Suggest some try to say: “Jesus wants people at church to pray for others.”
- 3. Play a guessing game.** Write numbers 1–6 on individual sticky notes. Show the children a picture of today’s story from an illustrated Bible or the teaching picture (if available). Briefly tell the Bible story in your own words. Tell the

children to close their eyes while you cover parts of the picture with the numbered sticky notes. Give a number cube to a child and ask him to roll it and see what number he gets. Tell him to look at the sticky note with the matching number and guess what is under the sticky note. Guide him to remove the note after he guesses. See if he was correct. Pass the number cube to another child. Continue until all sticky notes are removed. Say a simple prayer thanking God for friends.

- 4. Roll a ball.** Sit in a circle with the boys and girls and roll a ball back and forth. Each time someone rolls the ball, lead him to repeat the Weekly Verse: “Pray for one another.” Sing or play a song about Jesus or friends and continue rolling the ball.

CLEAN UP

Move about the room quietly telling the children to begin cleaning up. Help as needed by telling the preschoolers what to do next or handing something to them and telling them where it goes.

PLAY A JUMPING GAME

Place four hula hoops on the floor around the room. Play or sing a song about Jesus. Guide the preschoolers to move around the room as you direct (tiptoe, skip, hop, crawl, and so forth) while the music is playing. When the music stops, direct the children to stand inside a hula hoop. Lead everyone to say the Weekly Verse. Start the music and give instructions for a different way to move. Stop the music again and ask someone to tell something he remembers from today’s Bible story. Remind the boys and girls that Peter’s friends were praying for him and God sent an angel to help Peter get out of jail. Allow the preschoolers to continue taking turns telling how to move about the room or when to stop the music. Conclude by asking everyone to say the Weekly Verse together.

DISMISS

Help children gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.