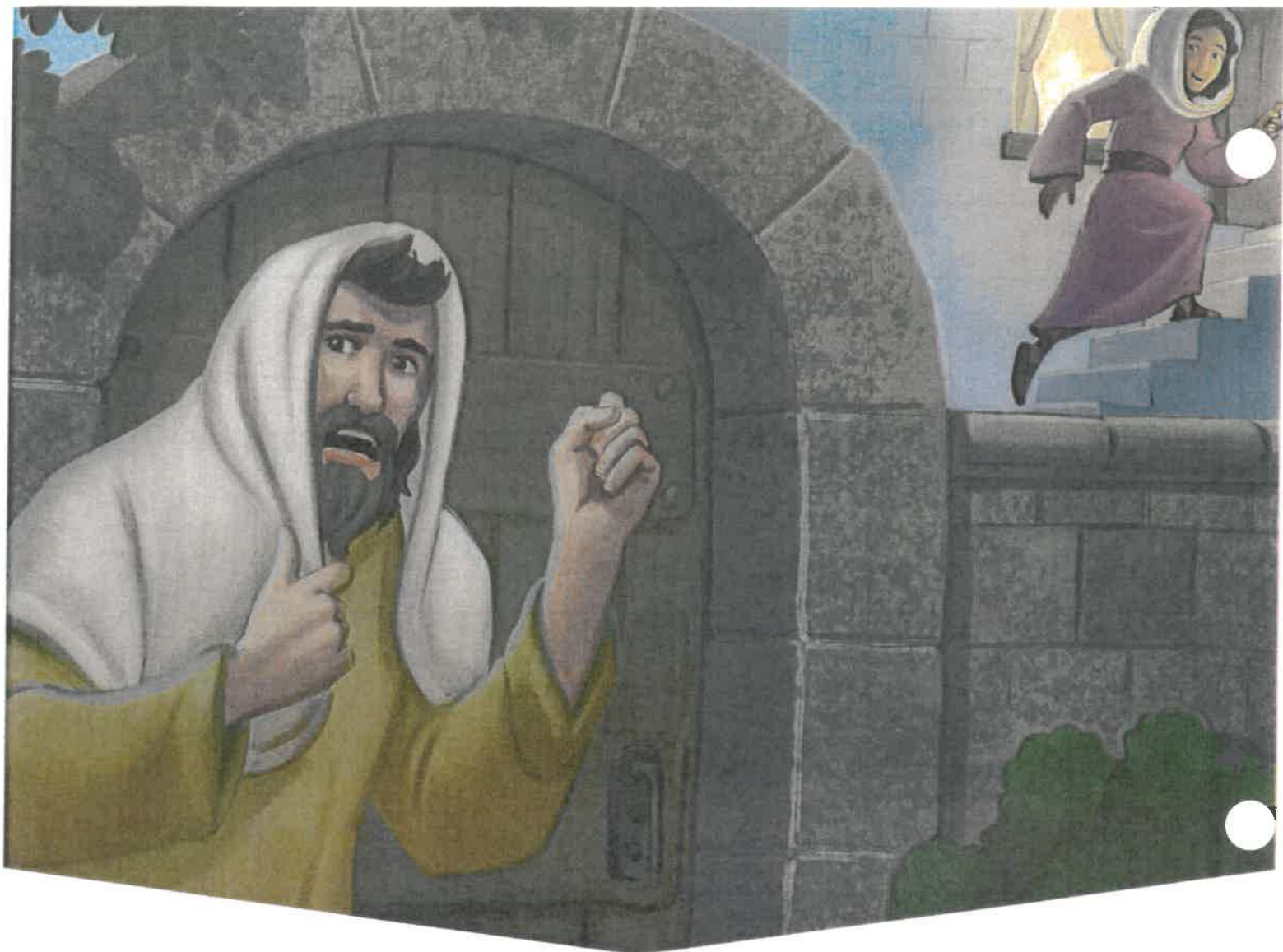


Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	Option 2: Paper Chains writing and putting together.	White board Marker Construction paper Markers tape/stapler
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Amanda.. She'll get you when ready.	
Classroom:	Page 94 Love God by Applying the Story: Hand out Bibles Do the review and Bible skills section, as well as the group discussion questions	Bibles
	Prayer Pictures: Have kids draw out a prayer they have to God. Read the prompt on page 95.	
	Bonus activity: Do the crossword puzzle.	Worksheet



UNIT 32 | SESSION 4

PETER WAS RESCUED FROM PRISON

ACTS 12

KEY PASSAGE:

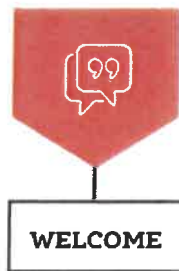
1 Corinthians 12:12

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God answered the people's prayers for Peter. God had a plan for Peter and the church, and He rescued Peter from his enemies. Peter knew he would face death because he believed in Jesus, but he kept going so he could share the good news of the gospel.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Who do you go to when you need help or have a question? Why do you go to that person? How do they help you or answer your question?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What Doesn’t Belong?” on the activity page.

SAY “Many objects did not belong in this picture. Today, we will learn how Peter was put into prison even though he didn’t belong there. Let’s get ready to learn more.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: LEAD ME



Invite kids to line up behind you. Tell kids that they are to follow you around the room, copying the movements you make. Lead kids by hopping, skipping, walking backwards, and so on. After 30 seconds or so, choose a kid to be the leader. Direct him to lead the kids using different movements. Continue switching leaders as time allows.

For an added challenge, consider turning off the lights at various times. Tell kids that when the lights are off, they must freeze. Then turn the lights back on and resume the activity.

SAY “Today, we will learn how an angel appeared to Peter while he was in prison. The angel told Peter to get up and follow him. Let’s get ready to hear where the angel led Peter.”

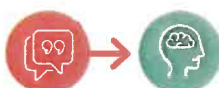
☐ OPTION 2: PAPER CHAINS

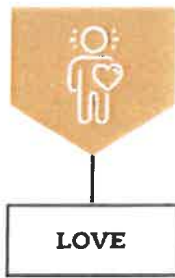
Before the session, cut construction paper into long, narrow strips. Make five strips per kid. Write God rescued Peter from prison on a dry erase board for kids to refer to.

Provide each kid with a set of paper strips, tape or stapler, and a marker. Lead kids to write a word from the dry erase board on each strip of paper. Then direct kids to take the first strip with the word God and tape or staple it to form a loop. Next, lead kids to insert a second strip with the word rescued into the loop and secure it with tape or a stapler. Continue this process in order of the message from the dry erase board. Consider preparing a completed chain for the kids to refer to as well.

SAY “Your paper chains remind me of our Bible story. Today, we will learn how Peter had chains placed on him and was put in prison. Do you think chains could stop God from rescuing Peter? [Allow responses.] No, God is greater than any chain. Let’s get ready to hear how God rescued Peter from prison.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Remind kids that the Bible has two main divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Practice leading kids to find a book in the Old Testament such as Judges and a book in the New Testament such as Ephesians. Then guide kids to open their Bibles to Acts 12.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H4) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Acts 12:6-7 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🌟 Peter was in prison because he shared the gospel. When the angel came to Peter, he was sleeping. Would you be able to sleep in prison, knowing that the king wanted to kill you? [Allow responses.] It would be a normal response to be afraid in such a difficult situation. But Peter was able to sleep even though he faced death because he trusted God and was willing to give his life for the gospel. For Christians, difficult times are not the end because we always have the hope of living with Jesus forever. Like Peter, we can trust that whether God chooses to rescue us or not, Jesus has saved us to enjoy heaven with Him. 🌟

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🌟 Can you think of other people in the Bible who trusted in God and were saved from dangerous situations? Who? 🌟

Answers will vary. Prompt kids to think about people like Noah, Moses, Rahab, David, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and others who placed their trust in God. Discuss how these people believed in God's promises and character. Explain that some people like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego believed that even if God did not rescue them from earthly danger, they knew death was not the end.

SAY 🌟 The church prayed for Peter. Why do we pray? 🌟

Tell kids that we pray for many reasons. Discuss how prayer is the way that we call out to God when we are in need, when we want to say we are thankful, or when we want to worship him. Share how God already knows what we pray before we pray it, but prayer helps us remember who God is and our need for him. Remind kids that God loves it when we pray to him.

SAY 🌟 The church was amazed by Peter's rescue. When have you been amazed by what God has done? 🌟

Answers will vary. Remind kids that nothing is too difficult for God. Help kids understand that God has a plan and purpose for all His actions. Tell kids that God was not done with how He would use Peter to help build His church.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ **OPTION 1: BEACH BALL PASS**



Before the session, use a permanent marker to write action words on each segment of a beach ball, such as run in place; jump; spin; say, "Pray, Give, Go;" do five jumping jacks; clap; etc. Lead kids to stand in a circle to play a beach game. Tell kids you will toss the ball to players and the words written on the ball closest to their right thumb will be the action the kids will perform. Explain that they will continue to do the action until they catch the ball again and then change to the new action. Direct kids to throw the ball to another kid after they've read the action they're to perform. Continue playing as time allows.

SAY ✎ Gospel City Church is located in a beach town where many water and outdoor activities are enjoyed by the people. Playing games like this provides a fun way to make friends and tell others about Jesus. Let's pray for Gospel City Church to find ways to build relationships with the people of Boynton Beach so they can hear the good news. ✎

☐ **OPTION 2: PRAYER PICTURES**



Prompt kids to think about how the church prayed for Peter in today's Bible story. Then lead kids to think about different prayers they might want to ask God. Invite kids to draw a picture of their prayer whether it is a praise or a request. Provide kids with paper and markers. Encourage kids to remember that God hears our prayers. Then invite kids to share their prayer pictures with the group.

SAY ✎ God loves it when we come to him in prayer. Sometimes it is hard to find the right words to pray when we are overwhelmed or worried. We do not have to have the right words for God to understand our prayers. God knows our hearts, and we can ask Him to help us through His Spirit as we pray. Remember that God always hears our prayers, and we can trust Him to answer in ways that are for our good and His glory. ✎

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

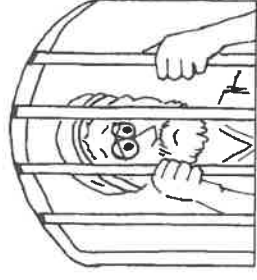
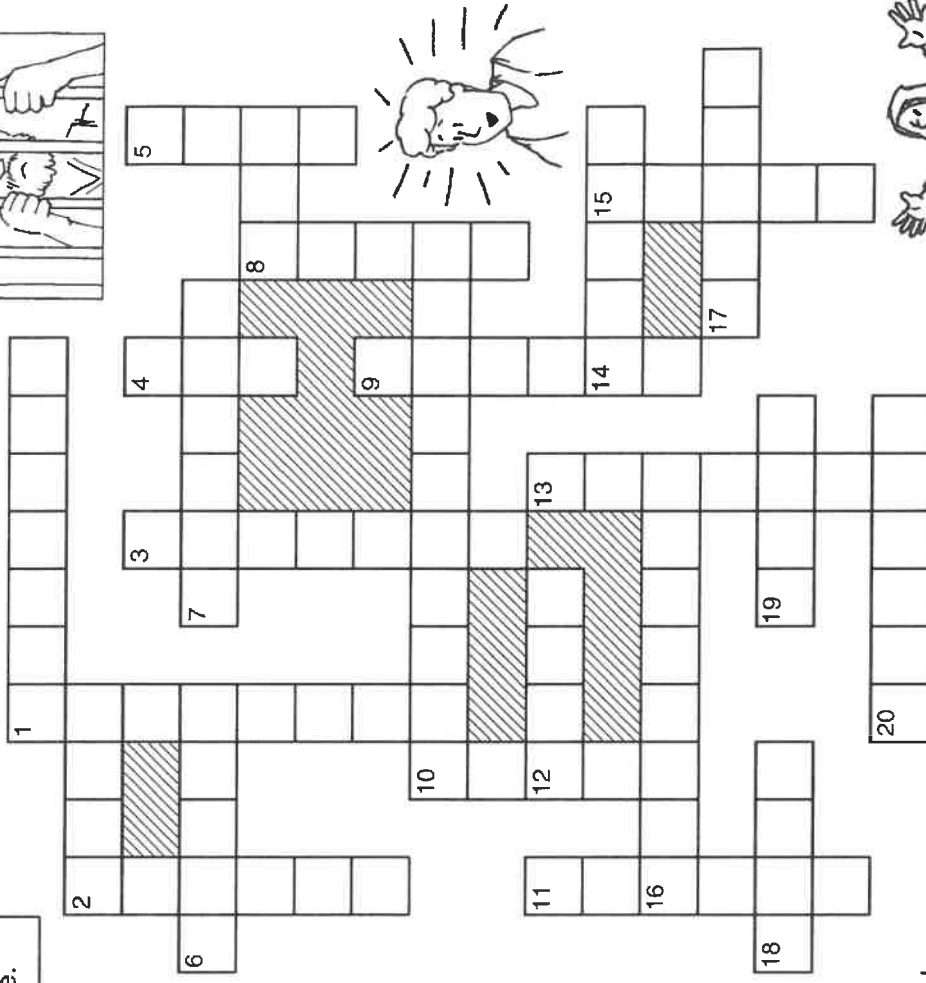
- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

Herod put Peter securely in prison.
The believers prayed that his life would be spared.

Unscramble the words in parentheses and write them in the blanks to complete the story. Then use those words to fill in the crossword puzzle.



Herod put Peter in 7) _____ (norpis) guarded by
19) _____ (ofru) squads of four 16) _____
(rideloss) each. At 14A) _____ (thing) Peter was asleep
between two soldiers, bound with two 9) _____ (schina),
and 1D) _____ (seseitrn) stood guard at the entrance.
Suddenly an 10D) _____ (glean) appeared and a
6) _____ (hiltg) shone in the cell. He 2A) _____ (weko)
Peter up and the chains fell off Peter's 2D) _____ (stirws).
He told Peter to put on his clothes and 1A) _____ (landsas).
Peter followed the angel out of the prison, but thought he was
having a 11) _____ (onivis). They passed the
20) _____ (darsug) and came to the iron 12) _____
(tage) to the city, which opened for them by itself. Suddenly the angel
left and Peter realized that without a 17) _____ (butod) the Lord
had 13) _____ (cudseer) him. He went to a 15) _____ (shueo) where many people had gathered and were
3) _____ (graynip). Peter knocked. A servant girl named 8) _____ (haRdo) came to the 18) _____ (odro) and was
so full of 4) _____ (oyi) she 8A) _____ (nar) back to tell the others, forgetting to open the door. The people said, "You're out of your
5) _____ 'dimn)." When they opened the door and saw Peter, th vere 10A) _____ (denishtoas).