

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



“Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”
Acts 12:5

The Power of Prayer

The Apostle Peter was put in prison for preaching this Apostolic message. James, the brother of John was put to death, and King Herod was determined to do the same thing to Peter because he saw that it pleased the Jews so much (Acts 12:3). We need to remember that there were a lot of religious people in Israel at that time, going to the temple every day, claiming to know God, and appearing to be very spiritual. But even King Herod knew that those who preached like Peter and James were different than the ordinary religious people in Israel.

That night as Peter slept within the prison walls with his hands and feet bound in chains and guards blocking the doors, the church people gathered together and prayed for his deliverance. While they were praying, God sent an angel to the prison to remove Peter’s chains. “Get up and get dressed!” the angel told him. It wasn’t until the angel had led him out of the prison and into the city streets that Peter realized he wasn’t simply seeing a vision. It was really true! How surprised the prison guards were the next morning when Herod called for Peter, but he was nowhere to be found! A miracle had taken place right under their noses!

The prayers of God’s people definitely made a difference. The Bible is clear when it says, ***“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).*** We all need to make prayer a vital part of our everyday life. Prayer needs to be an important part of our church participation, too. If your church has a prayer room, try to spend time there before service seeking God. It will make a difference in how you receive the Word when it is preached. There may be times when your pastor will call for a special time of prayer. Be one of the first to join in. There is no telling what kind of miracles God has in store for those who pray fervently!

Family Prayer: “Dear Jesus, I am so thankful that You allow us to come to You and that we can be sure that You hear us. Thank You for all the prayers You have already answered for me. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Includes
Family
Activities

Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages



Some time back we suggested that you keep a prayer journal. If you have been doing this, take some time to go back and see some of the prayers you have had answered. If you haven't already done so, create your own special journal or even a family journal, in which you record prayer needs and also answered prayers. It is important that we remember the wonderful things that God has already done!

Let's talk

How important is prayer to you individually? As a family? Is it something that takes priority, or is it just squeezed in when you can think of it? What can you do to make it more of a priority for you and your family?



Send a card to someone to let them know that you are praying for them this week. Maybe you can design and decorate your own original card and have each family member sign it. In this day of electronics this would be a special keepsake for someone!



Additional Challenges

The story of Peter in this week's devotion demonstrates how we pray sometimes. After the angel led Peter out of the prison and into the street, Peter went straight to the place where the church people were gathered together praying. A rather interesting thing happened when he showed up at the door. Read about it in Acts 12:13-17 and then tell it in your words here.

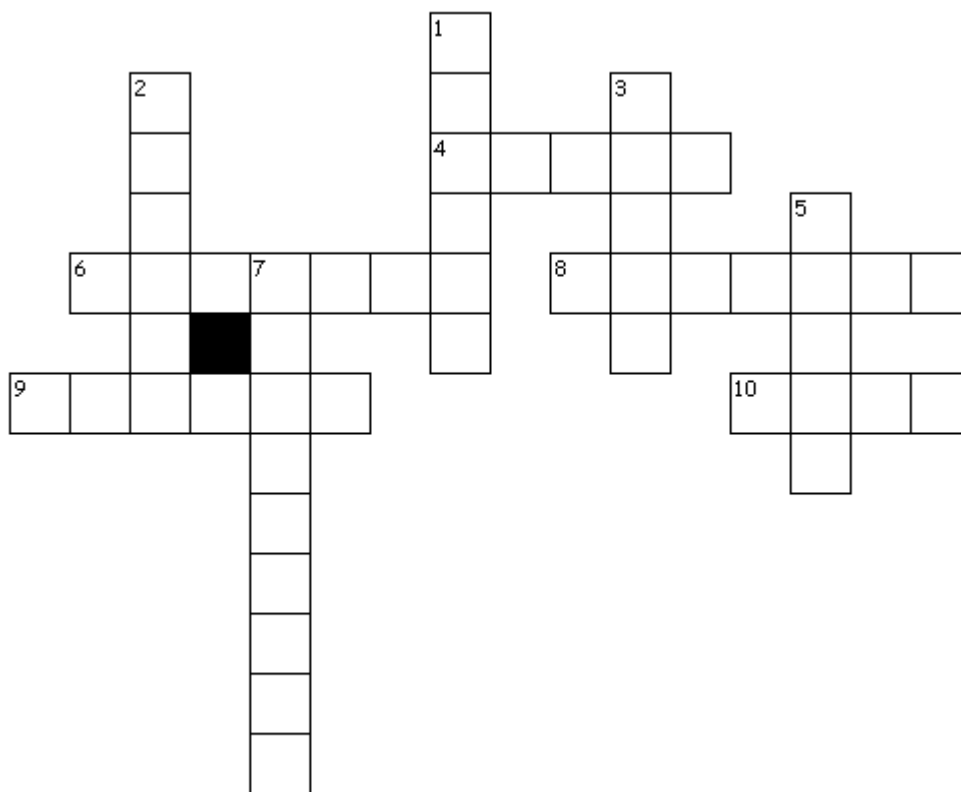
Have you ever prayed for something and then were totally surprised when God answered your prayer? Take a moment to recall what happened.

Do you need to make a new commitment to prayer?

God is waiting to hear from you!

My Action Plan:

Puzzle Page



Across

4. Who appeared to Peter in prison
6. What took place was a ____
8. Effectual, ____ prayer availeth much
9. Peter thought he was seeing a ____
10. Prayer makes a difference in how we receive the ____

Down

1. What makes a difference
2. How Peter's feet and hands were bound
3. Apostle put in prison
5. King ____ was determined to put Peter to death
7. Peter was put in prison for preaching the ____ message



God Hears and Answers Prayer