

Peter in Prison – Bible Story

The disciples continued sharing the good news everywhere they traveled. Many people believed, and the church grew quickly.

King Herod didn't like what was happening. He started bullying the church leaders, and he arrested Peter to please the Jewish leaders. Herod threw Peter in prison and left sixteen guards to stand watch over him.

When the church heard about Peter's arrest, they prayed to God for him.

The night before Peter was to go to trial, he was asleep chained between two guards, and there were guards at the entrance of the prison.

Suddenly an angel appeared and nudged Peter to wake him. The angel said, "Quick! Get up!"

Peter's chains fell off, and he did what the angel told him, "Get dressed. Put on your sandals. Put on your coat and follow me."

The church was still gathered at a home praying for Peter's safety.

Peter followed the angel and left the prison, walking right by the guards through open gates.

He thought he was having a dream until he found himself a free man outside the prison.

When the angel disappeared, Peter realized it wasn't a dream. He said, "Now I'm certain that the Lord sent an angel to rescue me."

Many believers had gathered at the house to pray. The church prayed asking God to deliver Peter.

When Peter reached the house, he knocked at the outer gate. A servant named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, she ran back in the house to tell the church, leaving Peter standing outside the gate.

The people didn't believe Rhoda at first, but finally they opened the gate. The church was so excited that God had delivered Peter safely back to them.

Peter shared how God had sent an angel who helped him escape. He told the church to share what God had done, and then Peter left and continued spreading the good news.

(Based on Acts 12:1-17)



11b Story Chain – Puzzle (Preschool)

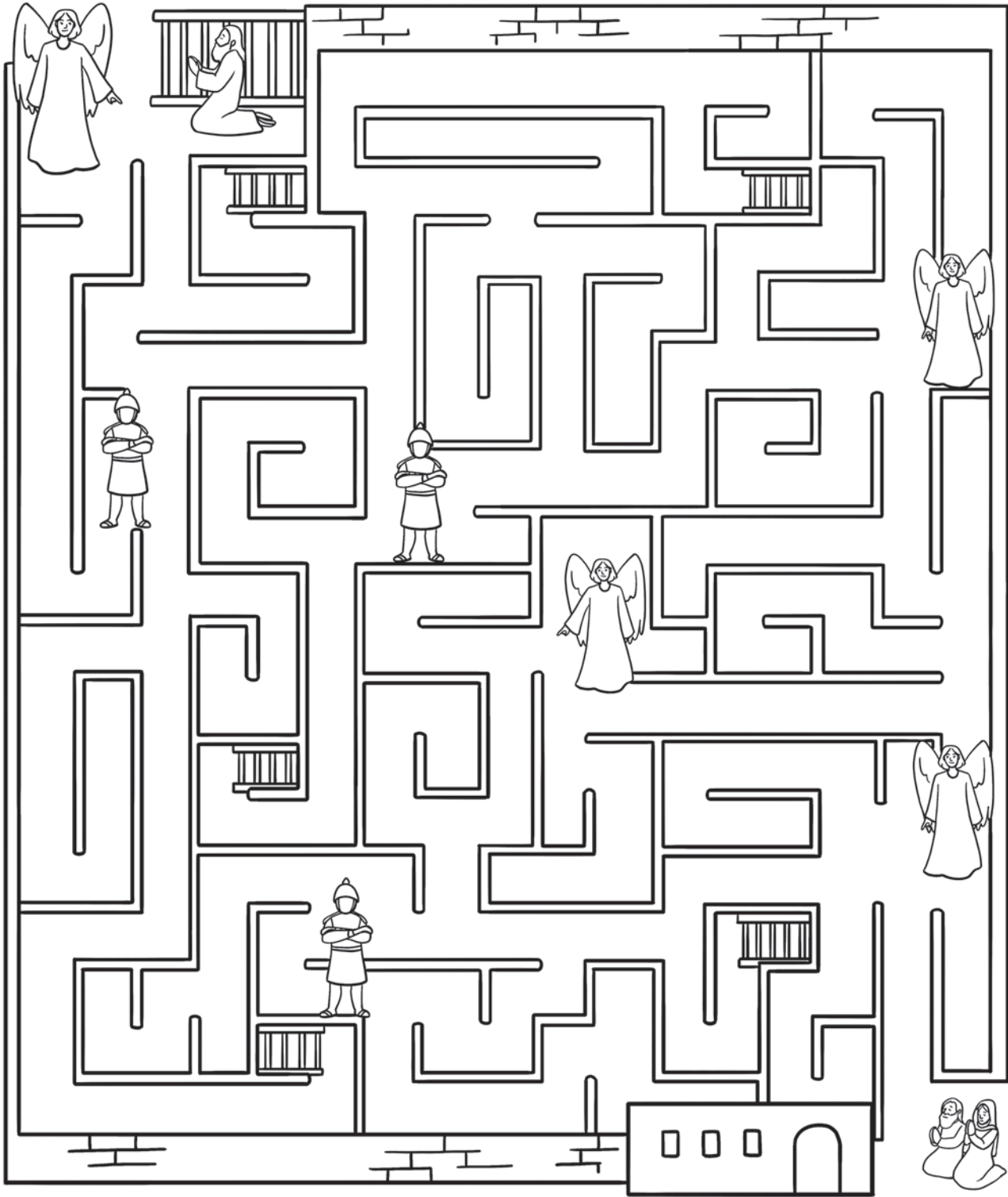
King Herod didn't want Peter talking about Jesus, so he threw Peter in jail. Cut out the four strips. Put them in order of the story. Then connect them as a paper chain.

<p>An angel helped Peter escape from the prison.</p>	<p>Peter went and told the church about his escape.</p>	<p>King Herod put Peter in jail for talking about Jesus.</p>	<p>The church met together to pray for Peter.</p>
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Help Peter Escape – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

11c

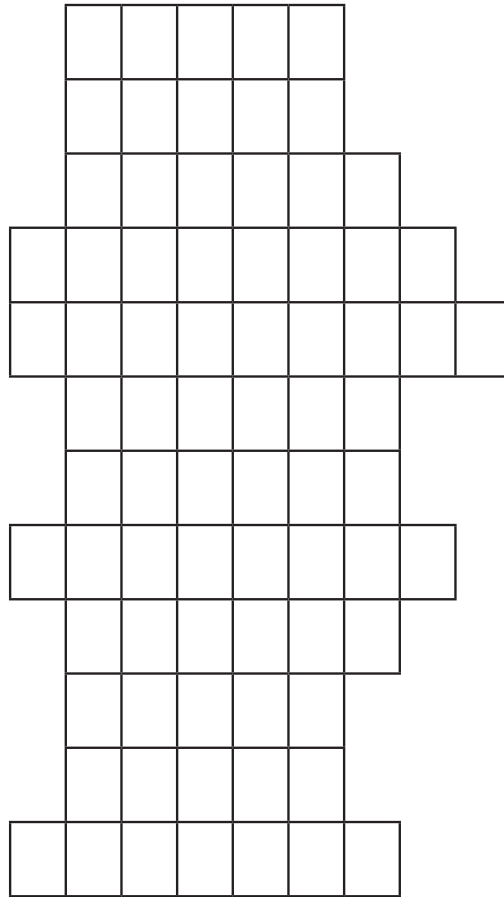
King Herod tried to stop Peter from talking about Jesus by putting Peter in jail. Help Peter make it through the maze to the church. The angels will help you, but beware of the guards.



11d Word Scrambles – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

All of these words can be found in the Bible story in Acts 12:1-17. Can you unscramble them?

1. REETP
2. LGEAN
3. RIPNOS
4. LLYBNGUI
5. OEIKHDRGN
6. HINSCA
7. RUDSAG
8. LOWOLFED
9. HHRUCC
10. EOUSH
11. DAHOR
12. YAPRING



Fill in the Blanks:

5. _____ didn't like the 9. _____, so he started 4. _____ the leaders. He put 1. _____ in 3. _____, but the church was gathered in a 10. _____ 12. _____ for Peter. An 2. _____ appeared in the prison. The angel woke up Peter and the 6. _____ fell off Peter's wrist. Peter 8. _____ the angel and escaped. Then he went to the house where the church was and knocked on the door. 11. _____ answered the door but left Peter standing outside. Peter told the church what had happened, and then he left. The next day the 7. _____ had no idea what happened to Peter.

Paper Bag Puppets – Craft

11e

Materials:

paper lunch bag
markers
construction paper
googly eyes
pom poms
yarn
ribbon
glue stick
scissors



Directions:

Choose which character in today's story you would like to make your paper bag puppet: Peter, Guard, Angel, Rhoda, King Herod, a person in the church .

Make your puppet's face on the square that's the bottom of the bag. You can make yarn hair, googly eyes, pom pom noses, or draw the face with markers. Draw half of the lips on the bottom square and the other half on the side just below it.

Use construction paper and ribbon to create some clothes or draw them with markers.

Put your hand in the open end of the bag, and move your hand up to the square with the face. Place your fingers in the square and your thumb on the side behind the bottom lip. You can use your fingers and thumbs to make the mouth open as if speaking.

Peter in Prison

Acts 12:1-17

King Herod didn't like the disciples talking about Jesus, so he started bullying the church leaders. He threw Peter in jail. But the church was together, praying for Peter. An angel came to Peter in the night and helped him escape. Peter went to the house where the church was praying. When he knocked on the gate, a servant named Rhoda answered. She was so excited that she forgot to open the gate. The church came out to see Peter, and he told them about the angel helping him escape. Peter told the church to share how God had taken care of him and keep praying. Then Peter left to continue sharing the good news.

Verse of the Month

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

What Do You Think?

Peter thought the angel was a dream at first. How do you think he felt when he realized he was free?

How would you have felt if you had been with the church praying when Peter showed up?

Family Activity

Talk about how we can pray to God, and God hears and answers our prayers.

What do you want to pray about? Share these things with your family, and pray for these things together.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for listening to our prayers and answering. Help us listen carefully for your answers; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.