

# The Great Escape

Acts 12:1-19; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 143-154

**H**ave you ever tried to open a door and found it was locked? Peter was in prison behind locked doors. Would he ever leave that cold, dark place?

**A**t first Peter could not sleep. He lay on the cold, hard ground in the dark. His hands were chained to two guards. He hurt all over. His only comfort was knowing that the other believers were praying for him.

Fourteen other soldiers stood outside the cell guarding him. To escape was humanly impossible. All the excitement of being arrested made him very tired. Soon he fell into a deep sleep.

Peter felt something—or someone—touch him. He woke up to a bright light. An angel reached out to him.

“Quickly, get up,” the angel said. Peter thought he was dreaming, until the chains fell off his wrists.

“Put on your clothes and sandals,”

said the angel. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Peter obeyed. He felt as if he were still dreaming. Quietly, the angel led Peter past all 14 guards. When they reached the prison gate, it opened by itself.

As they walked down the street, the angel disappeared. Peter knew then that this was not a dream; he was awake. “I know the Lord sent His angel to rescue me from Herod!” he said to himself.



Peter walked to John Mark’s mother’s house. He knew the believers had gathered there to pray. Peter knocked softly on the outer door. Rhoda, a servant girl, answered.

“Who is it?” she asked through the closed door.

“Rhoda, Rhoda,” Peter whispered. “It’s Peter.”

“Peter!” she shouted joyfully. “He’s at the door!” Then without opening the door she ran back to tell the others. Peter

## The Message

God hears and answers our prayers for one another.

## Memory Verse

“Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him”

(Acts 12:5, NIV).



stood there, surprised that she hadn't let him in. He put his ear on the door. He could hear a voice inside saying, "Rhoda, you're out of your mind."

"No, it's true," Rhoda cried. Peter knocked again.

"Peter's in jail," said another voice.

"But I heard him," said Rhoda. Peter knocked again.

"He's got four squads of soldiers guarding

him," said someone else.

"I know his voice," insisted Rhoda. Peter knocked harder.

"It is Peter!" Rhoda said in a tearful voice.

Peter didn't want to wake up the whole neighborhood, but he knocked loudly once more.

"What's that?" someone asked.

Everyone looked at each other, then at Rhoda.

"It sounds like knocking," someone else replied.

Everyone rushed toward the door. They yanked it open, and almost shouted when they saw Peter. He motioned for them to be quiet.

Their voices dropped to a whisper as they pulled him inside the house.

Everyone began talking at once, saying, "Praise God, Peter, you're safe"; "We've been praying for you all night."

Then Peter told them how the Lord's angel had helped him escape. When he finished, he said, "I've got to go somewhere that is safer. Tell James and the others what happened. Thank you for your prayers. I know that's why the angel came to set me free."

## S A B B A T H

**DO** With your family, go for a Sabbath walk while tied loosely to another person. What does it feel like? Think about what it must have been like for Peter.

**PRAY** Pray for all those who are in prison today for believing in Jesus.

## M O N D A Y

**DO** Make a family prayer list during family worship.

**ASK** Ask each person to share a time when God answered their prayers.

**SING** Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (Sing for Joy, No. 96).

**THINK** Lie down on the floor for five minutes. Think what it must have been like for Peter lying on the floor in prison.

**PRAY** Pray for the people on your prayer list.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**DO** Find the ABCs to prayer by looking up Matthew 7:7; Matthew 21:22; and 1 John 1:9. Fill them in below:  
A \_\_, B \_\_\_\_\_, C l a i m

**MAKE** Make a poster to put up in your room to remind you of the ABCs of prayer.

**SHARE** Share the ABCs of prayer with your family at worship today, and use the ABCs as you pray together.

## S U N D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Acts 12:1-19 during family worship.

**PRAY** Pray for your church family.

**DO** Cut 16 thin strips of paper. Write one word of the memory verse on each strip. Glue both ends of the strips together, linking them to form a paper chain. Review your memory verse every day.

**DO** How many chains can you find around your house? Which is the heaviest? What kind of chain do you think was used on Peter?

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** Look in an encyclopedia and see what you can find out about Roman prisons.

**DO** Create a prison model to share at worship.

**DO** During family worship see how many other Bible prisoners you can think of.

**PRAY** Thank God for your freedom.

Peter had 16 guards in jail who worked four at a time. Two were always chained to him; two stood at the door of his cell.



# THURSDAY

**DO** Make a greeting card for an older church member. On the card write Psalm 116:1 and "I'm praying for you." Mail the card, take it to their home, or give it to the person at church. Continue to remember this person in your prayers.

**DO** Mark out a "prison cell" 6' x 3'. Stay in the space for 10 minutes. While there, thank God for the people who pray for you every day.

# FRIDAY

**DO** For worship, act out the story of Peter with your family.

**DO** God answers prayers in three different ways: yes, no, and wait. Look at your family prayer list and see how God has answered your prayers for each one.

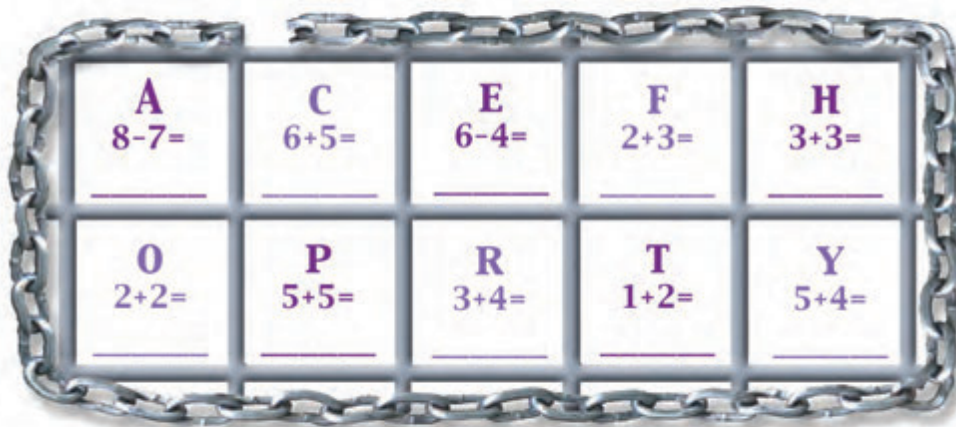
**SING** Say your memory verse for the family. Sing a prayer song.

**PRAY** Continue to pray for those on your family prayer list.

## Peter Escapes From Prison

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** To find a way that we can help others, first do the math problems in the code grid. Fill in the answer in order to know which letter should be placed above the numbers in the puzzle.



10	7	1	9	5	4	7		
2	1	11	6	4	3	6	2	7

# Community— God's Family

## Directions:

As you think about your community, consider the number of ways that people communicate. Information is shared through words, written materials, and actions. Sign language is one way that people who are hearing-challenged can communicate. Use the hand signs to spell out a message of hope.





"



" Acts 10:34, 35 (NIV)

