

### God Answers Christians' Prayers for Peter to be Freed

#### Performance Objectives:

1. Children will pray for things that please God.
2. Children will receive answers to their prayers.
3. Children will tell others about answered prayers.

#### Materials Needed:

Verse visuals for Lamentations 3:23b and Matthew 21:22

Song visuals for "Did You Ever Talk to God Above" and "God Answers Prayer"

Question maze sheets

Pencils or pens for the children

Evaluation sheet

#### Opening Activities:

Quote theme verse "Lamentations 3:23b

Sing "Did You Ever Talk to God Above"

Tell short story of time when God answered your own prayer.

#### Sequence of Activities: (Instructional procedures)

- A. Focusing event-Sing "God Answers Prayer"
- B. Instruction (content of the lesson)-on separate sheet
- C. Tying the net-on separate sheet
- D. Teaching the memory verse (guided practice)-Matthew 21:22-Split into four parts and have a section of the class saying each part. Then switch up a couple times, until everyone has said every part.
- E. Independent activity (worksheet, review)-Use maze with questions inside to help Peter and the angel find their way out of the prison.

#### Evaluation

- A. Of the students
  1. Are the students praying for things that please God?
  2. Are the students receiving answers to their prayers?
  3. Are the students telling others about their answered prayers?
- B. Of the teaching session
  1. Do students understand that the character in the Bible story prayed for something that pleased God?
  2. Do students realize that the character received the answer to their prayer?
  3. Do students recognize that the character told specific people about their answered prayer?
  4. Is each group able to successfully recite each of the four sections of the verse?
  5. Are students able to correctly answer questions in the maze?

## **God Answers Christians' Prayers for Peter to be Freed (Acts 12:1-19)**

### **Introduction**

Have you ever seen a prison? Prisons usually have high fence with lots of barbed wire and guards all over the place. Imagine if you were had not done anything wrong and then the police came and arrested you and took you to prison. They threw you into a little cell in the middle of the prison, chained you on both sides and surrounded you with guards. There was no way to escape. Your friends watched you get arrested and knew there was no way to get you out. Then, your friends remembered that God can do anything and they started to pray.

This is almost the same thing that happened to Peter in the Bible.

### **Instruction-Content of the Lesson**

Herod was persecuting the church. (v1-2)

Herod arrested Peter and put him in prison with many guards. (v3-5a)

The Christians prayed for Peter to be released. (v5b)

#### **1. The Christians prayed for something that pleased God-that Peter would be freed, so that he could continue with God's work.**

The night before Peter's trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, chained with two chains, and the prison door was being guarded. (v6)

Suddenly an angel came into the prison, shined a light on Peter, hit Peter on the side, and told him to get up, the chains falling off of Peter's hands. (v7)

The angel told Peter to get dressed, put on his sandals, and follow him. (v8)

Peter followed the angel, but he thought it was vision, not reality. (v9)

The angel brought Peter out of the prison and when they were in the street, the angel left him. (v10)

Peter realized what had happened and knew that God had delivered him. (v11)

#### **2. God answered the Christian's prayer for Peter to be freed.**

Peter went to Mary's house, where a prayer meeting was going on. (v12)

Peter knocked on the door and a maid named Rhoda answered the door. (v13)

When Rhoda heard Peter's voice, before she even opened the door, she ran to tell the others that Peter was at the door. (v14)

The Christians did not believe her. (v15)

Peter kept knocking and when they went to investigate, they were shocked to find it was truly Peter. (v 16)

Peter told them how God had delivered him from the prison. (v17a)

#### **3a. Peter told the Christians about God's answer to their prayer.**

Peter told them to tell the other Christians about what God had done. (v17b)

#### **3b. The Christians told the other Christians about God's answer to their prayer.**

Peter left. (v17c)

The jail-keepers could not figure out what had happened to Peter. (v18)

Herod could not find him, so he put all of the guards to death. (v19a-b)

### **Conclusion-Tying the Net**

The Christians in the story had a very important request to ask God. They wanted their fellow Christian and preacher, Peter, to be freed from prison. The prison had guards all over the place, but the Christians knew it would please God if Peter was freed, so they started to pray. God miraculously answered their prayer and the Christians spread the word about what God had done.

Have you ever had a time in your life where you had something you wanted to ask God for, but it seemed impossible? Remember if it pleases God, God will still answer your prayers. You should expect Him to do so.

When God does answer your “impossible” prayers, do not forget to thank Him and tell other people about what God has done.

Remember, if you have not trusted Jesus yet, the most important prayer you can pray is a prayer asking Jesus to save you. Jesus is able to save each and every one of you. If you have any questions about how to ask Jesus to save you, I would be glad to answer them if you will come to me right after the lesson.