

# 11. Peter in Prison (Acts 12:1-17)

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



## PLAN

### Session Outline

#### 1. Gather

Greeting  
Prayer Chain  
Knock-Knock Theater  
Transition to Explore

#### 2. Explore

Sacred Conversations  
Hear and See the Bible Story  
Interact with the Bible Story  
Say the Bible Verse  
Transition to Respond

#### 3. Respond

Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor  
Cross It Out  
Door Knocker  
Transition to Bless

#### 4. Bless

Inviting  
Praising  
Blessing  
At Home with God

### Supplies

**Basic Supplies:** Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Construction paper | Scissors

**Gather:** Pretend microphone | Knock-knock jokes | Knock-knock stage props (optional)

**Explore:** No additional supplies needed

**Respond:** Globe or world map | Small-to medium-sized buttons (2 per child) | Adhesive glue dots or clear tape

**Bless:** No additional supplies needed

### Before You Teach

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we are told to “pray continually.” In Philippians 4:6, we are told to “bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers.” In Ephesians 6:18, we are told to “offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time.” The message seems clear; we are to pray! Peter’s friends in the early church took these teachings to heart. Peter was in prison as a result of King Herod’s persecution of the Christians. The outlook for Peter was bleak. What could his fellow Christians do? They prayed.

Even though Peter’s friends were praying for him, they probably did not expect Peter to be freed from prison. It is not likely they were praying for an angel to rescue Peter from prison. If they were, they might not have been so surprised and unbelieving when Peter appeared at their door. It is possible that Peter’s friends did not know what specific result they should pray for—they simply knew their response to this situation, as in any situation, should be prayer. So that’s what they did.

God heard the prayers lifted up on Peter’s behalf, and God answered the prayers. However, the answer was unexpected—God sent an angel to rescue Peter. The female servant who answered the door when Peter arrived was so surprised to see him that she closed the door and left Peter standing outside! She then had a difficult time convincing the others that Peter was indeed there. Even though they were in prayer for Peter, this was not what they really expected.

This story contains some valuable reminders for us. First of all, we are reminded of the importance of praying for others. We can talk with God, not only about our own needs, but also about the needs of others, those we know and love and even those people unknown to us. Even when we are unsure what a person needs, we can still pray for them because God knows. Secondly, sometimes God answers our prayers in unexpected ways. We believe God hears and answers our prayers, yet we need to remember that the answer may not be the one we are expecting.

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## GATHER

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### Greeting

*Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).*

- Play, “Changed” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
  - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
  - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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### A—Prayer Chain (Group Activity)

*Before class: Cut two strips of construction paper approximately 1 1/2-inch wide for each child.*

- Give each child two strips of construction paper, and invite the child to write the names of people, or draw pictures of situations, that he or she would like the class pray for.
  - Have each child bring you his or her strips of paper.
  - Read one of the strips out loud, and then say, “*Lord, in your mercy.*” Have the children respond, “*hear our prayer.*” Then tape the two ends of the strip together to create a loop.
  - Repeat the same prayer with each strip of paper. As the group prays for each request, use tape to add the strip to the other loops, creating a paper chain.
  - Hang the paper chain in the classroom.
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OR

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### B—Knock-Knock Theater (Dramatic Play)

*Before class: Create a stage area in the classroom including chairs for the audience. Be creative with whatever props you have lying around. Have a pretend microphone as part of your set up. Look up child friendly knock-knock jokes online and print them to have available for children who need some guidance.*

- Show the children your Knock-Knock Theater stage area.
  - Have the children sit in the audience. Stand in your stage area and tell the children a knock-knock joke to get the play time started.
  - Invite the children to take turns entering the stage area to tell a knock-knock joke. Play as long as interest and time allow.
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### Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up and move to the Bible story circle. Encourage the children to choose a silly movement to do as they move to the story circle.

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## EXPLORE

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### Sacred Conversations

**SAY:** This month we are hearing more New Testament stories about Christians and their communities. Last week we heard about Peter and John. They helped a man who could not walk. They said they would not stop telling everyone about Jesus. I wonder who we will hear about today.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
  - How do you feel today?
  - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about Peter. He was put in prison by people who did not like what he was saying about Jesus. Then something amazing happened. Let's hear the story.

- Tell the children the story, "Peter in Prison" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 484).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 11 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

**ASK:** How do you feel when someone comes back from being gone for a while?

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### Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Peter in Prison" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 11).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

**TIP:** Printable "Word Cards" for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).

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### Say the Bible Verse

*Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 3 (Class Kit—p. 7) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
  - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 96 and [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday)).
  - Watch the Unit 3 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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### Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity. Encourage them to act excited as they move.

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# RESPOND

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### Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and the Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 29) on a wall or bulletin board. Locate a globe or a world map.*

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

**SAY:** This month we are learning about and supporting the John Wesley Community Centre. At the John Wesley Community Centre, people support children and families who are affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They help them with education and make sure the children and families have what they need to live like food, medical care, and clothes. Do you remember where the John Wesley Community Centre is located? It is in Etwatwa, South Africa, on the continent of Africa.

- Show the children a globe or world map.
- Help the children find the continent of Africa. Then help them find the country of South Africa.

**ASK:** Is South Africa close to where we live or far away? Have you ever been to South Africa? What about the continent of Africa?

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### A—Cross It Out (Puzzle)

*Before class: Make a copy of the "Cross It Out Puzzle" (p. 72) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Cross It Out Puzzle" (p. 72).
- Encourage the child to cross out the words that begin with a letter in Peter's name: **P, E, T,** and **R.** Then have them write the remaining words in the blanks.
- Read the Bible verse with the children.

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OR

### B—Door Knocker (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 11, two buttons, a sheet of construction paper, and two adhesive glue dots or two rolled up pieces of clear tape.
- Invite the children to create "Door Knockers" according to the instructions.

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### Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up and move to the Bible story circle. Encourage the children to choose a silly movement to do as they move to the circle.

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# BLESS

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### Inviting

*Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 23) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural.*

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the angel to the mural.

**ASK:** What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

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### Praising

*Before class: Display "Singing Together" (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Sing together, "Thank You, God" (Class Kit—p. 25).

**TIP:** *If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.*

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### Blessing

- Sitting in a circle, turn to the child to your right and say, "*(Child's Name), you are an important part of our community.*"
- Invite the child to turn to the child on his or her right and then say, "*(Child's Name), you are an important part of our community.*"
- Have the children continue around the circle in this way until the final child says the phrase back to you.

**PRAY:** God, we are thankful for our church community. Thank you for the way that you are always with us. Amen.

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### At Home with God

**ASK:** What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 11. Look at "Family Faith Activities" together.

**ASK:** Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 11 with each child.

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## Cross It Out Puzzle



**Instructions:** Cross out the words that begin with one of the letters in the name of the disciple: P E T E R. Then write the remaining words in the blanks to reveal the Bible Verse.

POWER ELBOW AS TOMATOES FOR  
REJOICE US TRADE EMPTY WE CAN'T  
TALK STOP RUB EIGHT SPEAKING TIE  
EYE ABOUT READY PEN WHAT WE  
PLAYGROUND HAVE RACE SEEN PIE  
PICKLE RULE AND TABLE HEARD EGG

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(Acts 4:20)