Younger Preschool May 17

Bible Teaching: Peter's Rescue

Bible Passage: Acts 12:3–19

Summary
King Herod was persecuting followers of Jesus. Peter was arrested. The night before Peter's trial, an angel of the Lord woke him. The angel told him to get up, and the chains fell off of Peter's hands. Peter followed the angel out of the prison. He went to the house where many believers were praying for him. They were amazed Peter was free, and Peter shared how the Lord rescued him from prison.

Today's Brite Idea is: God is powerful.

Monthly Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)
Yours is the greatness and the power and the glory.

Monthly Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Finish at Home

One great way to build the bridge from church to home is to encourage parents to finish the lesson at home.

- **Finish the Scripture:** Leave the lesson on a cliffhanger and invite parents to read the Scripture together to hear how the story ends.
- **Family discussion:** Based on the lesson, email or text a couple questions to parents for families to discuss all week long. Encourage parents to follow up with any questions—big or small—that their preschooler may have about the Bible story.
- **Apply truth with parents:** We are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so give parents an example of how they can apply that truth and finish the lesson during the week.

Navigating a Broken World: Being Mistreated for Following Jesus

Sixty-two percent of practicing Christian millennials feel that their faith is now countercultural, while a similar percentage feel misunderstood and persecuted.* The kids in your group may not be facing jail time for what they believe, like Peter did, but following in the ways of Jesus can be countercultural. Some kids may deal with teasing or being put down for their faith. Help kids know your group is a safe place to talk about Jesus and ask questions to grow in their faith. Lead kids to encourage one another to always stick up for their faith and to always follow Jesus.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

Preschool Glossary:

Escape: to be set free
Trial: When a judge and people listen to find out if someone did something wrong or not

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

God Is Stronger

Supplies: Bucket, water bottle, beanbag, can of food, large rock, painter's tape

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

Peter's Rescue (Acts 12:3–19)

Supplies: Bibles, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Move It

Supplies: Memory Verse Song, music player, scarves (1 per kid)

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Set Free

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, blue construction paper (1 half per kid), grey construction paper (1 quarter per kid), glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), printable page, brass fastener (1 per kid), marker, scissors (prep), hole punch

God Is Stronger

Belong Activity

Supplies: Bucket, water bottle, beanbag, can of food, large rock, painter's tape

Prep: Put the items in the bucket. Put a finish line on the floor with the painter's tape. Set the bucket on the other side of the space.

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can each of you tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. Can you show me how strong you are? *Lead kids to flex their muscles.*
2. **Say:** Wow! Look at all of your muscles! Today you are going to show me how you use your powerful muscles by carrying items to that piece of tape on the floor.
3. *Show kids where the tape line is.*
4. **Say:** You will take turns and carry one item from my bucket and place it on the finish line.
5. *One at a time, lead kids to pick an item from the bucket and carry it across the room.*
6. *Repeat until all kids have had a chance to carry an item.*

Activity Wrap-Up: It's so cool to see how strong and powerful you are! Even though carrying these items made us feel strong, God is even stronger!

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bibles, Bible story cards, video player

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

Peter's Rescue

(Acts 12:3-19)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Acts. Peter told lots of people about Jesus. This made King Herod very angry. He did not like anyone believing in Jesus! He wanted to stop the good news of Jesus from spreading. Hold up your hands like a stop sign.

Say: Peter was arrested and put in jail. Say, "Oh no!" Peter was sleeping, chained to two soldiers. More guards stood watch at the door. King Herod wanted to make sure there was no way out for Peter.

Say: Suddenly, an angel appeared next to Peter! A bright light shone in the prison cell. The angel told Peter to get up quickly. The chains fell off Peter's arms. Wave your arms in the air like they are free from chains. The angel said, "Follow me." Peter did what the angel said, but he thought he was dreaming. But it was really happening! Peter was going to be set free!

Say: The guards were asleep. Everyone say, "Shhhh." Peter walked right past them. The prison gate opened on its own. Peter walked into the street, and the angel was gone. It was a miracle!

Say: Peter went to a house where believers were praying for him. Can you put your hands together like you're praying? He knocked on the door. The servant girl was so surprised to hear Peter's voice that she forgot to open the door. Peter kept knocking until the door was opened. Can you knock your hand on your knee? Everyone was amazed he was out of prison. Peter shared what God had done.

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: Is God in control of everything? Yes!

Memory Verse: (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- Yours is the *(point up to the sky)*
- greatness and the *(extend arms out)*
- power and the *(flex your muscles)*
- glory. *(close hands and burst them open while extending arms out)*
- 1 Chronicles 29:11 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: Nothing is too hard for God.
We: God is with us in hard times.
Me: God is with me in hard times.

Move It

Believe Activity

Supplies: Memory-Verse Song, music player, scarf (1 per kid)

Prep: None

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that God is so powerful, He helped Peter escape from prison. Let's practice the memory verse with motions to remember it.

Instructions:

1. *Gather kids in a circle.*
2. *Hand out a scarf to each kid. Show kids how to wave the scarf in the air.*
3. **Say:** Let's move our bodies to help us remember God's Word!
4. *Play the Memory Verse Song and dance around the room with the kids while waving the scarves.*
5. *Play the Memory Verse Song as long as time allows.*

Activity Wrap-Up: You moved your bodies and spoke God's Word with your voices. That helps you remember it in your heart.

Set Free

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, blue construction paper (1 half per kid), grey construction paper (1 quarter per kid), glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), printable page, brass fastener (1 per kid), marker, scissors (prep), hole punch

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page and cut out (1 Peter per kid). Cut the blue construction paper in half (1 per kid). Cut the grey construction paper into quarters (1 per kid). Write "God is powerful!" on the bottom of the blue construction paper.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Peter was stuck in jail. But God sent an angel, and the door opened! When the door opened, Peter walked out. God is powerful!
2. *Give kids a piece of blue construction paper and a Peter cutout.*
3. *Help kids glue Peter to the paper*.
4. *Give each kid a grey square cutout.*
5. *Decorate the grey paper with coloring supplies.*
6. *Punch a hole in the top left corner of the grey paper (this will be the jail door). Then punch a matching hole at the top left corner of the background paper where Peter is glued. Line up the holes and secure the square with a brass fastener. This will allow the grey square to swing over Peter like a door, just like the prison cell closing.*
7. Write each kid's name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pickup.

Discussion Questions:

- Why was Peter put in jail?
- Did Peter open the door by himself?
- Were the guards awake or asleep?
- Who helped Peter?

Pray Together: Dear God, thank You for helping Peter. Thank You for being strong. Amen.

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Dramatic Play:** Provide premade paper strips of different lengths and glue sticks. Encourage kids to build their own chains and try to break them like Peter.
- **Sensory:** Freeze toy people (Peter) in ice. Provide a container of warm water and water droppers to try and help Peter escape the ice.
- **Color Station:** Provide black paper with chalk and encourage kids to draw the Bible story.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: King Herod was trying to stop people from following Jesus. Peter was arrested for sharing about Jesus. Before Peter's trial, an angel of the Lord woke him. The angel told him to get up, and the chains fell off Peter's arms. Peter followed the angel out of the prison. He was free! He went to the house where many believers were praying for him. Peter shared how God rescued him.

Is God in control of everything? Yes!