

Power of Prayer (Pre-K)

Week 2

BIG IDEA

God Hears Our Prayers for Others

BIBLE

Peter in Prison (Acts 12)

FOR LEADERS

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use this section to get yourself ready to teach! Familiarize yourself with the Bible passage and reflect on what it says about God and what it says about us.
- **DID YOU KNOW...**
 - **WHO?**
 - The book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke were written by the same author. While the Gospel is focused on the life and ministry of Jesus, Acts focuses on the growth of the church and spread of the good news after Jesus' ascension.
 - **WHAT?**
 - [Acts 12](#) is part of a longer series of stories beginning in [Acts 8](#) about the rise of persecution against the church and how God protected His people through it all. In fact, God used the persecution against the church to help spread the gospel.
 - **WHERE?**
 - The story takes place in Judea, where Herod Agrippa, the grandson of the Herod who tried to have Jesus killed ([Matthew 2:16](#)), reigned.
 - **WHEN?**
 - [Acts 12](#) places the story of Peter's imprisonment and rescue by an angel around the same time that Paul began his ministry with Barnabas in Antioch. Persecution against the church in Judea increased as the gospel began to go forth to the Gentiles.
 - **CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**
 - Luke says that his Gospel is about what "Jesus began to do and to teach [emphasis added]" ([Acts 1:1, NIV](#)). Acts is about what Jesus continued to do and teach through the Holy Spirit in the apostles. Jesus continues to work in us by His Spirit today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Take a few moments to read [Acts 12:1-16](#).
- I know it sounds strange, but this is almost my favorite passage in Scripture. Why? Because you couldn't make this stuff up if you tried.
- A huddle of desperate Christians is deep in prayer for their imprisoned friend, Peter.
- Peter, who they love, and who might be executed the following day.
- Then, a knock at the door.
- It's Peter, whose miraculous release now means he needs someplace safe to shelter. But those praying can't quite believe their prayers have been answered in this way and figure it

must be an angel at the door, not Peter himself. It takes a brave servant girl to insist it really is Peter until finally they crack open the door and get him inside.

- Sound familiar? Like those believers, we sometimes pray without much expectation that God will answer. We don't want to get our hopes up, don't want to risk disappointment.
- But God hears our prayers, including our prayers for others. And when our prayers align with His purposes, remarkable things happen.
- So pray your kids come to know and love Him. That the diagnosis is reversed, the crisis calmed, the relationship healed. Pray boldly and specifically for God to act in the lives of people you love.
- Do that now—pray for a Peter in your life you'd like to see set free from some sort of captivity. If you take that risk, what might happen?
- And then keep listening for a knock at the door.
- Thank you for helping kids understand the power of prayer this month!

WELCOME

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use the Power of Prayer Spotify playlists for background worship music.*

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with toys and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and build relationships.*
 - *Get on the floor and be silly*
 - *Play along with what they're playing*
 - *Ask get-to-know-you questions*
 - *Learn names and use them as you interact*

CLEAN UP

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before moving onto the lesson content, play the "Clean Up" song and work together as a class to put all toys and activities away.*
 - *Place all toys in labelled tubs.*
 - *Place all tubs away in labelled cabinets Invite kids to find a "sit spot"*

INTRO

TALK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids on the floor and welcome them to church. Lead them through a repeat-after-me declaration to start the class.*
- **Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad to be here with all of you.**
- **Let's say these words together.**
 - **Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.
 - **And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Put your hands on your hips.
 - **Jesus loves me so much,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.
 - **His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.
 - **The Holy Spirit leads me** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.
 - **And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - March like you're following the leader.
 - **My life can tell Your story,** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.
 - **I'm a wonder, this is true.** *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*
 - Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").
- **Today, we are going to talk about praying for other people. When we pray for others, we can know that God hears us!**

ACTIVITY | Can You Hear Me?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place the hula hoop on the floor and have kids sit in a circle around the outside. Give each kid one beanbag to hold, or you can hold onto the beanbags and pass them to the kids.*
- **Today, we're going to learn that God hears us. When I call your name, you can toss your beanbag here and say your name.** *Point to the hoop.*
- *Call the kids one at a time, saying, "God hears (child's name) praying!" Wait for the kid to toss their beanbag inside the hoop and shout her name before calling the next child. Play until all the kids have had a turn.*

MUSIC | Worship Videos

- **Today, we'll learn about how God hears us when we pray for others. Let's sing together about how God hears our prayers for others!**
- **Will you dance and sing to God with me?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the worship music videos on the TV. Invite kids to participate by dancing and singing along.*
- **Thank you for worshipping God with me!**
- **Now, let's pray together before we hear our Bible Story.**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words*
- **God, we know You hear us when we pray for others, and You answer our prayers. So we come to You today, excited to learn about Your truth and to see how our prayers have power because of You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Acts 12:3–16 (Peter in Prison)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather the following puppets: Peter, two guards, angel, group of people. Set up the box for the people to be inside, praying. There will be a small door in the box for Peter to knock on. Use the paper jail cell.*
- **Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible.** *Read the God's Big Story Script provided or read [Acts 12:3–16](#) from the Bible.*
- **The book of Acts tells the true story of how Jesus' followers—called the church—started. Peter was one of the leaders of the early church.**
- **Some people weren't happy he was talking about Jesus so much. So they threw Peter into prison, even though he hadn't done anything wrong. He was chained up and put between two guards so he couldn't escape.** *Choose a child to come hold the Peter puppet and two kids to come hold the guard puppets. Encourage the kids to put the Peter puppet behind the pretend jail cell between the two guard puppets.*
- **But while Peter was in prison, people from the church prayed hard to God for him. The community of Jesus' followers did not give up hope that Peter would be set free. They gathered together and asked God for help.** *Allow a child to come hold the people puppet and put it inside the box (pretending it's a house).*
- **God heard the prayers and answered the people's prayers for Peter. Peter was being held by two chains with a soldier guarding him on each side, but he had fallen asleep in his prison cell.**
- **Then, on the night before Peter was supposed to go to trial before a judge, God sent an angel to set him free from prison. The angel woke Peter saying, "Quick! Get up!"** *Allow a child to come hold the angel puppet and bring it close to the Peter puppet.*
- **Immediately, the chains fell off Peter's wrists. He put on his clothes and sandals and followed the angel past the guards, out of the prison, and down the street.** *If using a paper jail cell, tear it apart. Encourage the kid with the angel puppet to lead the Peter puppet out past the guards and move toward the pretend house. The guard puppets can go away.*
- **If an angel appeared to you and led you out of a prison cell, would you believe it was real?**
- **Peter didn't—at least not at first! He thought it was a vision or a dream from God. But when the angel disappeared and Peter was left alone on the street, he realized God had really rescued him! Peter walked down the street.** *The angel puppet can go away.*
- **The church couldn't believe it either. While many Jesus followers were gathered together praying for Peter inside a house, Peter showed up at the door. A servant girl named Rhoda heard Peter's voice at the door and got so excited that she ran to the other believers without letting Peter inside! When she told them, they didn't believe her—they thought it**

must've been Peter's angel.

- *Encourage the Peter puppet to go to the pretend house and pretend to knock on the door. The people puppet can go to the door from inside the pretend house. **But when they finally let Peter in, they realized God had heard their prayers for Peter.***
- *Encourage the people puppet to pretend to open the door on the house and move up and down with excitement.*
- **It's been about 2,000 years since that night, and God has not changed. When we pray for others, God hears us. We can come to Him with our prayers because God hears our prayers for others.**
- **That's our Big Idea today! Say it with me: God hears our prayers for others.**

(OPTIONAL) VIDEO | Peter in Prison

- Watch the [Peter in Prison God's Big Story!](#)

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **We're learning that when we talk to God in prayer, He hears us—just like He heard Peter's friends when they prayed for Peter while Peter was in prison.**
- **Our memory verse reminds us that God listens to us and hears our prayers.**
- **Let's practice it together now.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.*
 - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—*Point to your ears.*
 - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—*Fold your hands together*
 - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—*Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.*
 - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—*Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.*
- **Great work, friends! We're going to keep practicing together each week.**
- **Now we get to talk with our friends about what we learned in God's big story. Let's head to our tables.**

SHARING TIME

SNACK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids around the tables and serve snacks, while you move on to circle time. As the kids eat, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse.*
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Don't forget to check name tags for food allergies.*

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As kids finish their snack, distribute the [coloring page](#) along with crayons and continue discussion and prayer time.

DISCUSSION | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Discuss the Bible story with the following questions. Feel free to repeat questions so that everyone has a chance to respond.
 - **How did Peter get out of prison?** (*God broke the chains; an angel led him out.*)
 - **What were Peter's friends doing while he was in prison?** (*praying for him*)
 - **Where did Peter go when he got out of prison?** (*to a house where his friends were praying*)
 - **What did Rhoda do when Peter knocked on the door?** (*In her excitement to tell the people Peter was there, she accidentally left him outside.*)
 - **How might you have felt if you were Rhoda answering the door?**
 - **What do you think Peter's friends felt when he entered the house?**
 - **Why do you think the people were praying for Peter?**
 - **Share about a time when you prayed for someone else.**
- **God hears our prayers when we pray for other people. We can pray for family members, friends from church or school, and our neighbors. Let's talk to God now in prayer!**

PRAYER

- **Do you remember in God's big story what Peter's friends were doing?** *Pause for response. Praying! And we can pray too. The Bible says, "The prayer of a godly person is powerful. Things happen because of it" ([James 5:16](#))!*
- **Did you know that we can pray using not just our words, but our body and our breath too?** *I'm going to teach you to pray this way, and maybe you can teach someone at home!*
- **Start by pulling your arms in like you're hugging your body.** *Demonstrate motion.*
- **Now push your arms straight out with your palms facing up.** *Demonstrate motion.*
- **Next, let's put our breath with it. I'm going to breathe in and pull my hands around myself like a hug.** *Demonstrate motion.*
- **And breathe out while I push my arms out and open my hands.** *Demonstrate motion.*
- **Practice this with me.** *Spend a few moments practicing breathing in and out while bringing hands in and out.*
- **Now we can add some words to our prayer. Let's think of different people we can pray for as we breathe and pray.** *Repeat each pair of lines a few times before moving to the next. Try a few of these suggestions, then invite the kids to suggest other people or have them pray on their own with names. Encourage the kids to repeat the words and mimic the motions after you.*
 - **I pray for someone in my house.** (*Breathe in; pull your arms in.*)
 - **God, You hear me.** (*Breathe out; push your arms out.*)
 - **I pray for my friend.** (*Breathe in; pull your arms in.*)

- **God, You hear me.** *(Breathe out; push your arms out.)*
- **I pray for someone who is sick, hurt, or lonely.** *(Breathe in; pull your arms in.)*
- **God, You hear me.** *(Breathe out; push your arms out.)*
- **I pray for my neighbor.** *(Breathe in; pull your arms in.)*
- **God, You hear me.** *(Breathe out; push your arms out.)*
- **I pray for someone who cares for me.** *(Breathe in; pull your arms in.)*
- **God, You hear me.** *(Breathe out; push your arms out.)*

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 66:19-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to practice the memory verse together, following along with the motions. Award prizes to kids that say the verse.*
 - **GOD LISTENS TO ME**—*Point to your ears.*
 - **AND HEARS MY PRAYERS.**—*Fold your hands together*
 - **I CAN PRAISE HIM.**—*Hold your hands above shoulders and turn wrists back and forth.*
 - **FROM [PSALM 66:19-20](#)**—*Hold your hands out together with palms open, as if opening a book.*
- **Great job! You can keep practicing at home this week, too. Maybe you could teach the verse to your family!**

PLAY TIME

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY | Pray, Pray, Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids sit in a circle on the floor and choose one kid to be Peter. With the kids seated in a circle, help the first "Peter" walk around and tap shoulders, saying, "Pray, Pray, Pray ..." until Peter chooses a kid by saying, "Praise." You might need to remind kids about tapping shoulders (instead of heads) and encourage kids to be gentle with others. Or you can model the action by being the first to play the part of Peter.*
- **Today, we are going to play our own version of "Duck, Duck, Goose." It's called "Pray, Pray, Praise!" Part of praying is giving praise, or thanks, to God for the blessings He gives us.**
- **Peter is going to go around the circle and tap you on the shoulder, saying, "Pray, pray, pray ..." Then, Peter will choose someone to chase him as he says, "Praise!"**
- **If you're tapped when Peter says, "Praise," you can jump up, chase the Peter around the circle, and try to catch that person before he sits down in your spot in the circle.**