

Finding Jesus when we're scared

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Acts 12:1-17. If you want to read it online just go to this link: <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage in the search engine.

Start

What do you do when you feel scared?

In our story today, we see how Jesus helped Peter when he was in a scary place.

Bible story

Peter was carrying on with following Jesus and doing the things Jesus asked him to do. It wasn't always easy. There were people who were being unkind to Jesus' followers and trying to stop them. One of these people was called Herod Agrippa (a grandson of the Herod we learn about at Christmas). He decided to have Peter arrested and put in prison. He wanted to get rid of Peter so he planned to have him put on trial. Peter's friends were scared because they didn't want Peter to be hurt. They were praying to Jesus for their friend Peter.

The night before he was going to be put on trial, Peter was asleep. He was chained to the wall of his prison cell and there was 1 guard on either side of him. All of a sudden, an angel who God had sent came into the cell and touched Peter on the side. "Quick, get up!" the angel said. Peter's chains fell off his wrists. The angel said, "Get dressed," and Peter did. Then the angel said, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." The angel led Peter out of the prison, passed the guards and to the gate that led to Jerusalem. Peter thought this wasn't really happening. The angel and Peter walked the length of one street and then the angel left him suddenly. Then Peter realised that this was all real and that Jesus had really sent an angel to take him out of prison.

Peter then went to the home where people had been praying for him. He knocked on the door and a servant girl named Rhoda came to see who was there. She recognised Peter's voice and was so excited that she didn't open the door, but ran back to tell Peter's friends that he was outside! They didn't think this was possible, but eventually they opened the door and saw it was him. Peter told them to keep quiet and to tell his other friends that he was alright. Then he left and carried on following Jesus.

How do you think Peter felt when he realised Jesus had sent an angel to rescue him?

How do you think Peter's friends felt when they saw him again?

What to do next

Below are some suggestions:

- You could chat about your favourite part of the story.
- You could re-create the story with lego/plasticine.
- You could act out the story.

You could pray together. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that we can pray to him when we are scared and he's always there for us.
- Is there anything that's making you feel scared right now? You could talk to Jesus about it and ask him to help you.
- Pray for anyone you know who is frightened in any way. Ask Jesus to help them and to know he is there for them.



Peter's Rescue Word Search



Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

H E R O D T B H E N I S M O D
T I O N S E D E U G I A P V E
L A I G U A R D S N S E R T E
T U E D O L O R E D E J A I L
N I G H T U F E U G A I Y V U
L A O R E M O L O R S I E E R
S U M I N A N D R E T A D V E
L I S I T N N L L A F A C I D
C N T A L I Q G A T U E R I T
H O R E R S E R E S C U E D O
A U L L A M C O N L E Q U I S
I O N S E Q U I S C I L L A N
N R E H E A V E N R I R I U R
S A O R E M O L O R S I T E R
S U M I N E N C I T Y L T V E

ANGEL
CHAINS
CITY
GUARDS

HEAVEN
HEROD
JAIL
NIGHT

PRAYED
RESCUED

