

# Peter Escapes from Prison

Lesson 38

## Bible Story

Acts 12:1-18

## Teacher Challenge

Peter was in a hopeless situation. Thrown into prison, he knew he was about to die. Herod had begun eliminating Jesus' disciples to please the religious leaders who had watched nervously as the number of Jesus' followers increased. But that same supernatural power that was growing the family of God was working just as effectively in Peter's prison cell! An angel awakened Peter and led him out. At first, Peter didn't believe it, and neither did his friends! They had been praying, begging God to spare Peter's life, yet when God answered in a powerful way, they were surprised!

- ➔ How has God seen you through a situation in which you felt hopeless?
- ➔ What situation are you in now in which you must trust Him?

When you find yourself in a circumstance that seems hopeless, believe that God will answer and give you greater faith to see His answer. Be ready to joyfully receive the answers God so powerfully provides. Share with others and with the children in your class what God is doing in your life.

**God's Word**  
"God is with you wherever you go."  
(See Joshua 1:9.)

**God's Word and Me**  
Wherever I go, God is with me and loves me.

## Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



# Play to Learn

Lesson 38

## Active Game Center: Knock! Knock!

### Collect

Bible.

### Prepare

Play this game in an area of your classroom with a door.

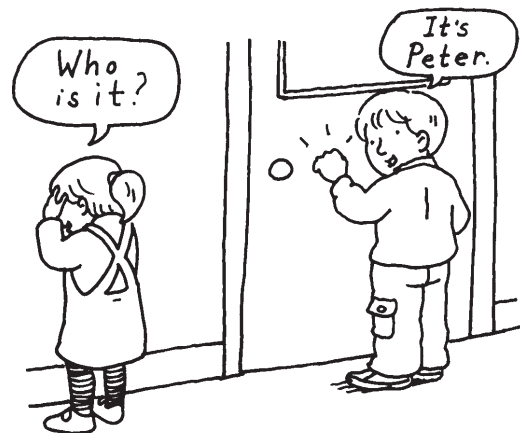


### Do

1. Children stand on opposite side of classroom from door. Volunteer stands by door with back turned to children.
2. At your signal, one child pretends to be Peter, runs to the door and knocks on it several times. Volunteer standing by door calls out "Who is it?" Child who knocked on door says "It's Peter!" and runs back to the group.
3. Volunteer faces group. If volunteer is able to guess the child's identity, they trade places. If volunteer is unable to guess the child's identity, another child takes a turn. After two tries, choose a new volunteer.

### Talk About

- ➔ **Today in our Bible story, Peter was put in jail, even though he had done nothing wrong. God helped Peter escape from jail. God loved Peter!**
- ➔ **After Peter left the jail, he went to his friend's house and knocked on the door. Peter's friends were surprised to hear his voice! Let's play a game to remind us of this story.**
- ➔ **The Bible says "God is with you wherever you go." God was with Peter. God has promised that wherever you go, He is with you and loves you.**



### For Younger Children

Children play the game but omit guessing who said "It's Peter!" Children will have fun just pretending to be Peter knocking on the door.

### For Older Children

Volunteer standing by door may wear a blindfold.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 38

## Art Center: Shape Maps

### Collect

Bible, markers, construction paper, colored paper, scissors, glue.

### Prepare

Draw a road on construction paper, one for each child. Cut colored paper into geometric shapes (squares, rectangles, triangles, etc.).

### Do

1. Children glue geometric shapes along road to make pictures of places they go.
2. Children draw trees, people, cars and other details on their pictures.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Peter was put in prison for telling people about Jesus. God sent an angel to help him. Peter walked right out of prison, past all the prison guards, through the town and over to the house where his friends were praying. God was with Peter all the way, and God is with us wherever we go! Let's make pictures of some of the places we go.**
- ➔ **Colin, where does your mom take you to buy clothes? God is with you at the mall!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God is with you wherever you go." Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for being with us and loving us wherever we are.**



### For Younger Children

Draw road outline on a large sheet of butcher paper. Tape paper to table top. Children color the path and drive toy cars along path.

### For Older Children

Ask children to name buildings in their picture (grocery store, pizza restaurant, etc.). Print the names children tell you on Post-It notes or small cards. Children glue name cards to their buildings.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 38

## Block Center: Playground Play

### Collect

Bible, blocks, toy people; optional—small cardboard tubes and boxes.

### Do

1. Children stack and arrange blocks to make a playground area for toy people. (Optional: Children make playground equipment with cardboard tubes and boxes.)
2. Children play as you talk about places God is with them.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “God is with you wherever you go.” God is with us wherever we go because He loves us! Let’s use our blocks to make a place where God is with us. Let’s make a playground.**
- ➔ **Noah, what do you like to do at the playground? God is with you when you play at the playground.**
- ➔ **God is with us here in our classroom. God is with you when you go home. Madison, where are some places you like to go?**
- ➔ **Monique, God is with you when you’re at your grandpa’s house. Justin, God is with you when you go to get ice cream. God is always with us.**
- ➔ **Pray, Thank You, God, for always being with us.**

**God’s Word**  
“God is with you wherever you go.”  
(See Joshua 1:9.)

**God’s Word and Me**  
Wherever I go, God is with  
me and loves me.



### For Younger Children

Provide several buckets or baskets. Children stack blocks in buckets or baskets and carry the blocks to other places. **Julia, where are you taking the blocks? It is fun to carry the blocks around the room. God is with you wherever you go.**

### For Older Children

Provide construction paper and markers. Children draw additional features for their playground: grassy area, pond, statue, fountain, etc.

# Play to Learn

Lesson 38

## Science Center: Who Is It?

### Collect

Bible, cellular phone with a sound recorder or blank audiocassette and player.

### Do

1. Holding your Bible open to Joshua 1:9, say the verse aloud. Ask children to repeat the verse together. Then record individual volunteers saying the verse aloud.
2. Play back the recording. Children guess whose voice they hear saying the verse.
3. **What makes a loud noise when your dad is mowing the lawn?** (Lawn mower.) **What sound do you hear when someone telephones your mom?** Record children making sounds. Play sounds back for children to listen to.

**God's Word**  
"God is with you wherever you go."  
(See Joshua 1:9.)

**God's Word and Me**  
Wherever I go, God is with  
me and loves me.

### Talk About

- **In today's Bible story, Peter went to the house of a friend after escaping from prison. He knocked on the door. A servant girl named Rhoda went to answer the door and she recognized Peter by his voice, even before she saw him! Let's take turns and see if we can recognize a friend by his or her voice.**
- **Sometimes we can recognize things by the sounds they make. Austin, what animal makes the sound "moo"? Let's make some other animals sounds. What animal's sound do you want to make?**
- **The Bible says, "God is with you wherever you go." Wherever we go, God is with us and loves us. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for loving us. We love You.**



### For Younger Children

Instead of asking children to identify each other, simply record children imitating various sounds as you lead them.

### For Older Children

Record children reciting the alphabet. Play recording for children to identify themselves. Also play recording for parents when children are dismissed.

# Listen to Learn

Acts 12:1-18

Lesson 38

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 51 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, toy vehicle, magazines or travel brochures, scissors, colored cardstock, glue; optional—Lesson 38 Place Patterns 1-3 from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

## Prepare

Before class, cut out pictures of different places from magazines or travel brochures and glue each picture to a different-colored sheet of card stock. (Optional: Print Places Patterns from CD-ROM and glue to card stock.) Cut each picture into two or three puzzle pieces.

**God's Word**  
"God is with you wherever you go."  
(See Joshua 1:9.)

**God's Word and Me**  
Wherever I go, God is with  
me and loves me.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle and take turns rolling the vehicle to each other. Child receiving the vehicle names a place they go. Say **God is with (Tammy) at the (beach)**.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 12. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 51 pictures.

### Listen to hear what happened when a man named Peter knocked on a door.

Every day more and more people believed that Jesus is God's Son. But some leaders wanted to stop Jesus' friends from telling others about Jesus. They even put some of Jesus' friends in prison!



One day Jesus' friend Peter was put in a prison cell. Peter's friends began to **pray** to God for help. Peter had chains around him. But that couldn't stop God! One night God sent an angel to Peter.



"Quick, get up!" the angel said. Peter looked down. The chains around him fell off his **hands**! Peter got dressed and followed the angel. The guards were all asleep. The gates to the prison opened. Peter and the angel walked outside into the street.



Peter thought he was dreaming. Then the angel was gone! Peter knew that God had rescued him from the prison! Peter **walked** right to the house where he knew his friends were praying for God's help. Peter couldn't wait to tell them what God had done! He knocked at the door. A servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the knock. Before she opened the door, she asked, "Who is it?"

"It's me!" said Peter.

Rhoda knew that voice! She was so excited she forgot to open the door! She ran back to tell the people who were praying. "PETER is at the door!" she shouted.



"Everyone looked up at her in surprise. Peter? "You're wrong," some of them said.

"No!" she said. "It's really Peter!" All this time Peter was still **knocking** at the door! Finally his friends opened the door. Peter's friends were amazed. God had been with Peter, even in prison. And God had answered their prayer!

## Talk About the Story

**Who did God send to help Peter out of prison? (Angel.) Even in prison, God was with Peter and helped him. I'm glad God is with me wherever I go. God is with you and loves you wherever you go! Where do you like to go to eat food? God is with you when you go there.**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing about God's love for us.** Lead children in singing "In a Very Big Way" (track 10 on CD). **God loves us so much, He promised to always be with us. I'm glad God is with me wherever I go! If you're glad God is with you wherever you go, sing this song with me again.**

**Option:** To make the Bible verse activity more of a challenge for older children, ask them to repeat verse and replace the first "you" with another child's name, the second "you" with "he" or "she" and "go" with "goes." The named child then repeats verse, using a different child's name. Continue until each child has a turn.

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Joshua 1:9, say verse aloud. **The Bible says that wherever we go, God is with us and loves us. Where do you go with your parents? (Home. School. Church. Park.) God is with us in all these places. God is with us everywhere!** Lead children in repeating the verse. Children clap their hands on each word of the verse except the word "you." Whenever children say "you," they each point to a different child in the class. Repeat several times.

## Pray to God

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for being with us wherever we go. Include in the prayer the places the children mentioned in the verse activity.

**Option:** On the top of a large sheet of paper, print "God is with me at \_\_\_\_\_." During verse activity, as children name places they go with their parents, print children's responses on paper. Display paper so that parents can read it when children are dismissed.

## Praise to God

Children work together to complete prepared puzzles. **You've finished the puzzle of a playground! God is with you at the playground. I'm glad God is with us everywhere we go!**

## Bible Story Activity Pages Center

### Collect

A copy of Activity 51 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—rice, glue.

### Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions on the page. (Optional: Children glue grains of rice to hay in picture.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.



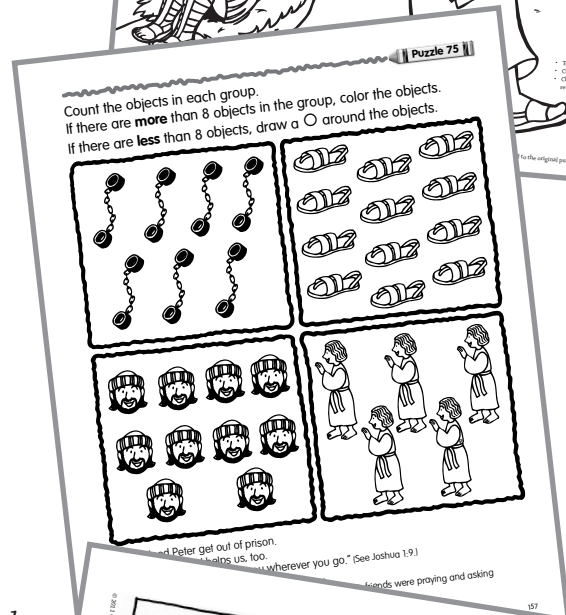
## Preschool Puzzle Center

### Collect

Copies of Puzzles 75 and 76 (p. 157 and p. 159 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

### Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.



## Read-Aloud Story Center

### Collect

A copy of Story Picture 38 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers, scissors, tape.

### Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

