

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**  
**CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K&K)**

**Lesson #93**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Trusting God and Praying – Peter Released from Prison

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 12:1-18

**AIM:** To encourage the children to believe that God can deliver them from impossible situations.

**MEMORY VERSES:** Mark 9:23b "...All things are possible to him who believes." Or Matt. 19:26c "...but with God all things are possible."

**REVIEW:** Do you remember the name of one of the Lord's disciples (helpers)? Yes, the Lord had a few helpers and one was Peter. Remember how the Lord used Peter and John to heal the lame man in front of the temple? Last time you heard that Peter had a dream (vision) while he was praying. Then Peter went to a man's house God told him to. What was the man's name? – Right! – Cornelius. Cornelius wasn't Jewish but he believed in the Lord Jesus. This was the first time that Jewish people and not Jewish people (Gentiles) together loved the Lord Jesus, praying to Him and praising Him just the way God wanted it to be.

**CONTENT:** Many years had passed since Peter talked with Cornelius and his family. Peter and the other disciples had traveled to many places and they were telling more and more people about Jesus. But they often came back to their hometown, Jerusalem. There was a new king in Jerusalem – King Herod (a different Herod than the one who ruled when Jesus was born). King Herod decided to cause trouble for the believers and disciples because he noticed that the leaders hated the disciples. The first disciple to have trouble was James the brother of John. King Herod had James arrested and put to death. Then he saw that it pleased the leaders, he had Peter arrested too.

This was going to be the end of Peter! Peter would be held in prison and killed. The king didn't want Peter to escape. He sent 16 soldiers to guard him. – 16 soldiers for one man!! Two guards were chained to Peter all the time and two guards stood outside the door. Even the large doors of the prison were locked and bolted. Do you think it would be possible for Peter to escape?

The believers and other disciples were worried about Peter because they didn't want to see him killed but it looked hopeless. Peter could not possibly escape and no one but the Lord could get him out. The believers met together at John Mark's house and prayed all night for Peter to be saved.

Peter probably realized he only had one more day to live if the Lord didn't get him out. There was no way he could escape because he was chained and guarded. He knew nothing was too hard for the Lord. Peter probably prayed to the Lord and then he went to sleep – chained between the two soldiers.

All of a sudden a light shined in the prison and one of the Lord's angels stood by him. The angel touched Peter's side and said "Get up quickly." Peter did and as he stood up the chains dropped off his hands. "Put on your tunic and your sandals." Said the angel and Peter did. "Now put on your coat and follow me." The soldiers who were guarding Peter didn't move because they were sleeping soundly. The angel led Peter out of the cell and down to the first door. The door opened quietly in front of them. They walked to the second door and it too opened without a sound. They walked past the guard but the guard didn't even wake up. Then they got to the heavy iron gate of the city it swung open by itself and they walked through it. The angel walked with Peter to the end of the street and then disappeared. Suddenly Peter was alone. Then Peter woke up. He looked all around. He said to himself, I have not been

dreaming! I really am outside the prison. The Lord sent His angel to save me from King Herod and my enemies.

Peter walked to John Mark's house where he thought the believers were probably praying. He knocked at the gate. A young girl named Rhoda came to the gate. When she recognized Peter's voice she was so excited! She didn't open the gate but ran to tell the others that Peter was there. She probably didn't think that Peter might be in danger standing outside, that the soldiers might be following him, or someone might see him and tell the soldiers where he was.

"Peter is outside!" Rhoda cried. "Peter is at the gate!" "You must be crazy, you don't know what you're talking about," the people said. Here they were praying for Peter to get out and they didn't believe that the Lord could get him out so soon. Rhoda kept saying Peter was there. They said it must be his angel.

Peter kept knocking. Finally someone else went to the gate. When he opened the gate everyone was very surprised. Peter came into the house and held his hand so everyone would be quiet. He told them how the Lord had sent His angel to get him out of prison. He said "Tell James (another James) and the other disciples how the Lord set me free." Peter probably thanked them for praying for him and then he left – probably to tell other people about the Lord Jesus.

### **APPLICATION:**

Wasn't it wonderful how the Lord got Peter out of jail? No one else could do that except the Lord. When we get in a very hard spot we can be like Peter – we can pray, trust the Lord and go to sleep. We don't have to stay up all night and worry. If we know somebody else is having a hard time we can pray for him like the believers prayed for Peter. The Lord can do anything – we just have to pray, and believe the Lord (trust Him).

**CRAFT IDEA:** Picture of a man behind bars and chained, or can have the children make paper chains—one of the chains can have the verse on it.

**SONGS:** #110 –Jesus Can Do Anything; #111 – Jesus Can Never Fail –v.1; #172 – Why Worry When You Can Pray; #30 – Only Believe; #25 – I Believe God.

#### **110 JESUS CAN DO ANYTHING**

1. Jesus can do anything,  
Anything, anything;  
Jesus can do anything,  
He is the Son of God.

2. Jesus made the wind  
obey...  
3. Jesus has authority ...  
4. Jesus listens when I  
pray...  
5. Jesus can be life within  
...

6. Jesus can forgive my  
sins,  
All my sins, all my sins;  
Jesus can forgive my sins,  
He is the Son of God.

7. Jesus made the water  
wine...  
8. Jesus said come follow  
Me...  
9. Jesus cast the demons  
out...

10. Jesus said just drink of  
Me,  
Drink of Me, drink of Me;  
Jesus said just drink of Me,  
You'll never thirst again.

#### **111 JESUS CAN NEVER FAIL**

1. Jesus can never fail,  
Never fail, never fail;  
Jesus can never fail,  
No, No, No.

2. Jesus can satisfy,  
Satisfy, satisfy;

Jesus can satisfy,  
Yes, Yes, Yes.

#### **172 WHY WORRY WHEN YOU CAN PRAY**

Why worry when you can  
pray?  
Trust Jesus, He'll be your  
stay;  
Don't be a "doubting  
Thomas",  
Rest fully on His promise,  
Why worry, worry, worry,  
worry,  
When you can pray.

Why worry when you can  
call?  
Trust Jesus, He is your  
call?  
Don't be a "doubting  
Thomas",

Rest fully on His promise,  
Why worry, worry, worry,  
worry,  
When you can call.

**30 ONLY BELIEVE**  
Only believe, only believe  
All things are possible,  
Only believe.  
(Repeat)

#### **25 I BELIEVE GOD**

I believe God,  
I believe God.  
Ask in His will and it shall  
be done.  
Trust and obey,  
Believe Him and say,  
I believe,  
I believe God!