

**STORY**

Peter Delivered from Prison - Acts 12

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Triune God of heaven, look upon us and gird us with Your Spirit so we may endure under the trials and tribulations You allow to come our way. Give us the strength to help others and to bear their burdens with them. In this way we, too, may be strengthened in the faith of Your forgiveness and Your great sacrifice for us on the cross. Help us never to despise or despair regardless of how severe and painful our trials may be. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Harass* - persecute

*Days of unleavened bread* - precedes the fourth day of the Passover celebration

*Squad* - more than one soldier. In this case perhaps two by the door and one at each gate.

**OUTER AIM**

God does not tempt or try believers (including us) beyond what they or we are able to bear.

**INNER AIM**

God delivers His chosen ones from all evil by giving them power to overcome that evil.

**BACKGROUND** This takes place well after Christ's persecution, death, resurrection, and ascension which gained salvation for all sinners of all times, including you and me. It takes place before the three so-called journeys of Paul but after Paul's conversion, probably around the year 41 A.D.

Persecution of Christians was on the rise including the death and beheading of James. (Beheading was considered to be most disgraceful.) Little has been made of this death of James, who was the brother of Jesus' favorite disciple, John. Maybe that is why Jesus held John closely so that his faith would not fail him at the death of his brother. James is the first martyr of the 12 disciples. This is not the James that was the cousin or "brother" of the Lord. That James joined other martyrs of Bethlehem as well as Stephen as the early martyrs of Christianity.

**STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord, You have taught us that we should be willing to lose our lives for Your sake. Grant us the faith and spiritual strength never to waiver in our faith in You regardless of the severity of the trials and troubles You allow to come our way. Grant us a double portion of the Spirit that You sent to James and Peter that we, too, may spend eternity with You because of Your sacrifice for our sins. Grant us complete remission of all our sins. We trust You for our salvation. Amen.

**PRESENTATION**

The martyrdom of James by Herod Agrippa I (grandson of Herod the Great, who tried Jesus for Pilate) did not satisfy the unbelieving Jews. They and Herod sought more and got it. Imprison Peter. It was in pre-Passover days so Herod would send Peter to trial and put him to death after the Passover and so they would not defile the Passover celebration.

But God had other plans. A squad of four constantly guarded Peter. Two were chained to him and

one each was placed at the door and the prison gate. They changed shifts, but always four were with Peter while he was in prison.

Through an angel, God delivers Peter. The angel awakens Peter, not disturbing the sleeping squad of guards. Peter's chains fall off. There were no keys. The door opens and the prisoners leave the prison. All guards are still sleeping. Peter could not believe all this was happening, but he surely did like the "dream" he was having. The angel brings Peter to a familiar part of Jerusalem and then leaves him.

We also note that the other disciples and other Christians were fervently praying for Peter's deliverance. As James says (5:16), "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." God did answer their prayer. He did deliver Peter from prison.

When the angels leave, Peter's "dream" ends; he finds he is truly delivered. He then is amazed and thankful and tries to get further away from the prison.

Peter goes to the home of John, Mark's mother Mary, where a certain servant girl, Rhoda, also was. She heard a knock on the door and recognized his voice when she asked who it was. But she did not let him in, so others found it hard to believe her. Yet when the knocking continued and the others finally answered, they were astounded to find Peter there.

They, too, were thankful and were anxious to keep Peter, but Peter under wisdom of God, left for another place to preach the Good News of forgiveness of sins to all and the promise of heaven to those who believe. He left Judea for Samaria and other regions so that it would make it harder for the enemies and opposers of Christianity to find him.

We are told Peter's persecutor, Herod, died a death by worms, inflicted by God, because Herod did not give glory to the God of heaven for his fame, but let others claim him (Herod) to be a god. He also had all the guards put to death for the escape of Peter.

## **APPLICATION**

God does not always let the wickedness and cruelty of men run rampant. In His way and at His time, He does all things for the spread of the Gospel.

When people like Herod try to oppose and hinder the spread of that Gospel news, God steps in with His way and at His time to continue the growth of his kingdom.

Even though trials and temptations may desperately seek to overwhelm us, like Peter and those other Christians we must persevere in prayer that God would help us so that we do not lose eternal life and the forgiveness of all our sins through Christ.

Like our early CLC fathers, we must hold faithfully to God's Word and promises so that we do not sacrifice heaven for some paltry offering the world may have to give, since all offerings of the world, even their best and greatest, are paltry compared to heaven and eternal life. Keep steadfast in the Word of God. You'll never go wrong, and it will never steer you wrong. It is truly our great heritage! Keep it and use it always in Christ's name!

## **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Ps 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matt 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matt 10:32-33 - Therefore, whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Matt 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

Matt 24:35 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Mark 8:34-38 - And when He had called the people to Him with his disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's, will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

## **HYMN CHOICES**

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word - TLH #261

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God - TLH #262

Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe - TLH #263

Thine Honor Save, O Christ, Our Lord - TLH #265

What Is The World To Me - TLH #430

What God Ordains Is Always Good - TLH #521

Be Still, My Soul - TLH #651

Now The Day Is Over - TLH #654

Onward Christian Soldiers - TLH #658

# **PETER ESCAPES FROM PRISON**

(Additional Teacher Notes)

## **A. Preparation**

Have you ever heard of Alcatraz? Alcatraz is in California near San Francisco. It's an island that has a prison built on it. The prison isn't used anymore, but during the years that it was a working prison, nobody ever escaped. Escape was impossible because even if the prisoners could get outside the walls, they would have to swim a long way through shark-infested waters to reach the mainland. In today's lesson, we will learn how God once sent an angel to help Peter escape from a prison even when escape seemed impossible.

OUTER AIM Peter escapes from prison

## **B. Presentation**

## **C. Penetration**

The main fact of the story is that Peter escaped from prison with the help of God. But the inner aim is the idea that God can deliver all his chosen ones from any evil that comes to them.

Sample Question Sequence

Why was Peter arrested and thrown into prison?  
How do you think Peter felt while he was in prison?  
What were the other believers doing while Peter was in prison?  
How did God answer their prayers?  
How did Peter escape from prison?

Can you think of a time God helped you when you were in trouble?  
If God could help Peter escape from prison, do you think he can help you when bad things happen?  
How does God deliver us from evil?

INNER AIM Jesus delivers His children from all evil

## **D. Application**

What does it mean for us that Jesus delivers us from all evil? It means we can preach the word of God without fear just as Peter did after he was freed from prison.

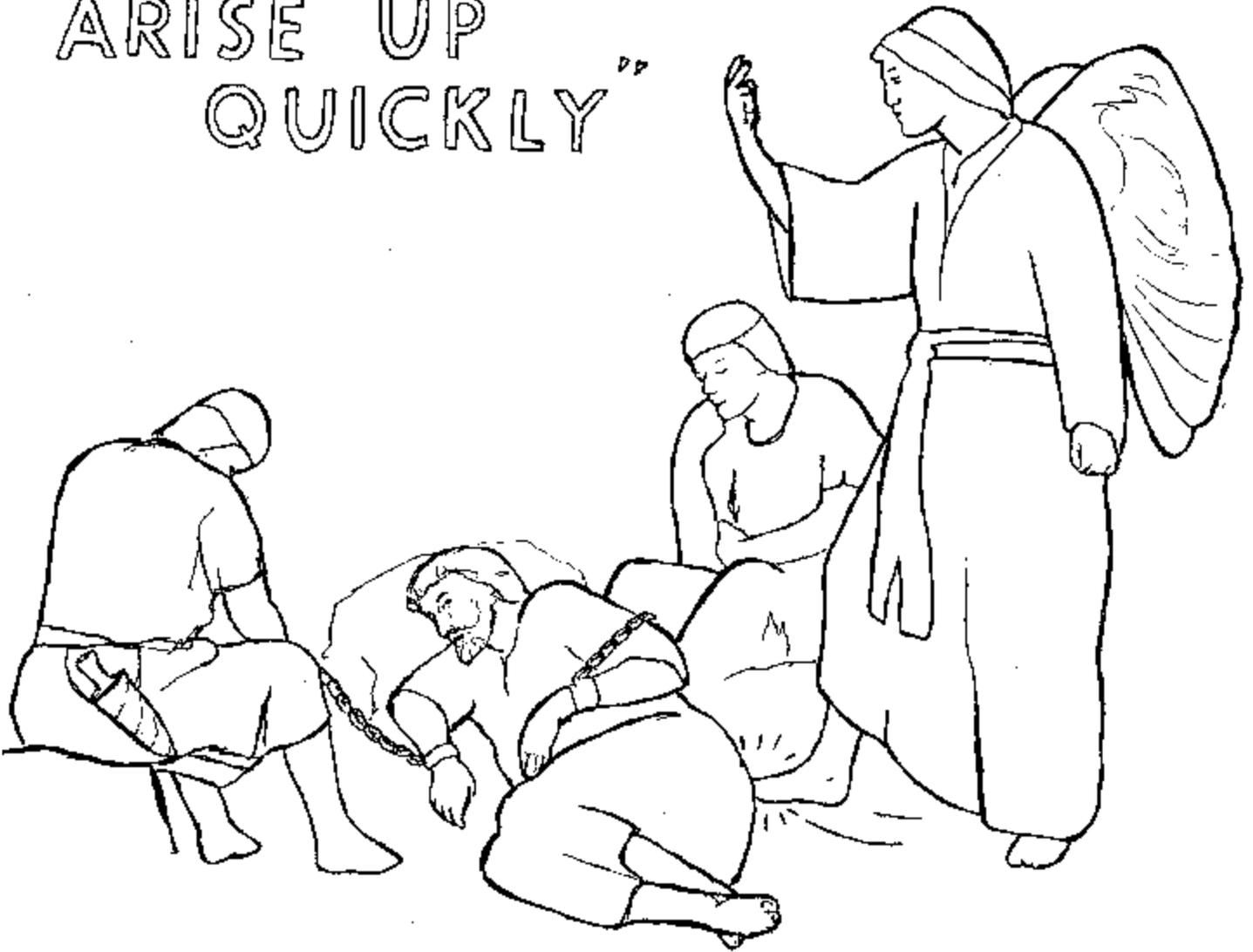
## **E. Drill and Review**

See worksheets

# Peter Delivered From Prison

Acts 12

“ARISE UP  
QUICKLY”



## The Story

Peter loved and served the Lord. A king named Herod didn't believe in Jesus. Many people did not like those who loved Jesus. To make them happy, King Herod put Peter in jail. Peter always had 4 guards around his place in the prison. Friends of Peter prayed to God that Peter would be safe and let go soon.

One night while Peter was sleeping an angel came into his jail cell. A bright light filled the room. The angel touched Peter on the side to wake him up. "Quick, get up!" he said. The chains on Peter's wrists fell off. The angel then told Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter did, but he thought he was just dreaming. They passed by the guards without them noticing.

Peter followed the angel as the locked gates unlocked and opened

before them. At the end of the street the angel left and Peter realized he was awake! He walked to a friend's house. People were gathered there to pray for him. They were so surprised and happy that he was free.

That morning the soldiers were very confused as to what had happened to Peter. They looked hard, but could not find him.

Some time after this happened, King Herod gave a speech to a group of people in his kingdom. The people told him he was a god. He should have given all praise to God, but he didn't. An angel of God let him get sick and King Herod died.

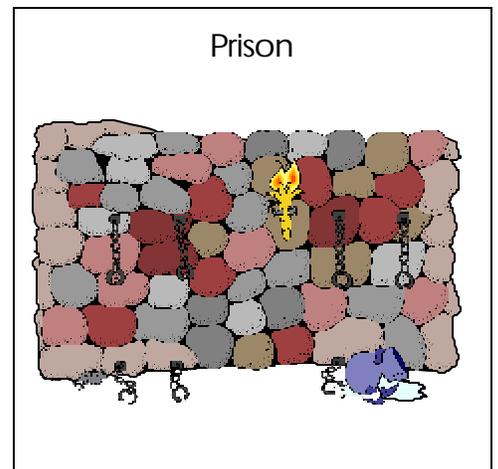
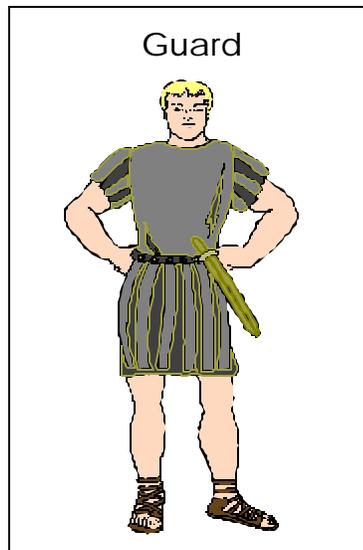
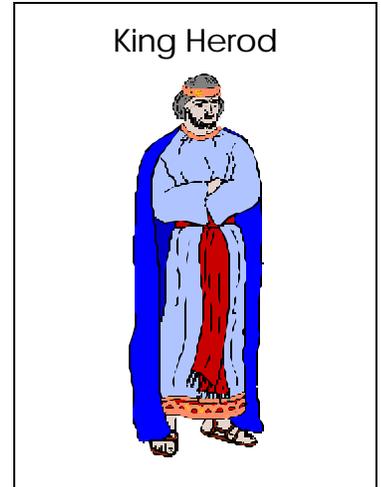
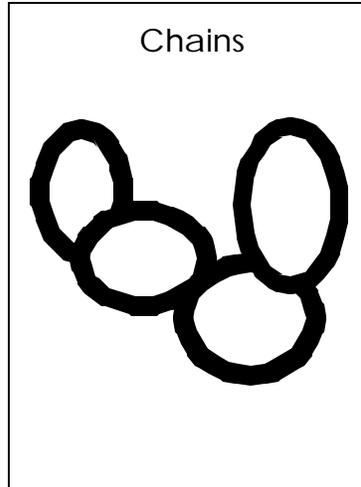
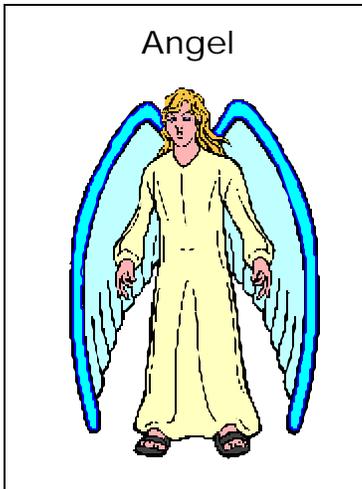
Do you think that Herod stopped the truth about Jesus from spreading?

### God delivered Peter from prison.

**Activity One** - Teacher: read the following statements. Student: circle the letter of the person who *might* have said each sentence. (P)eter (K)ing (A)ngel

1. P K A "I know that Jesus is with me, even in prison."
2. P K A "I want to hurt those believers in Jesus"
3. P K A "Get dressed and follow me!"
4. P K A "I am not dreaming, I really am free!"
5. P K A "How did Peter get past the guards?"
6. P K A "Quick, get up!"

**Activity Two** - Tell how each of these pictures belongs in the story today.



**God delivers His chosen ones from all evil.**

**Activity Three** - Rearrange these letters to make the following sentence.

**DGO**

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ will keep me safe from evil.

## Passages

Psalms 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

## Hymn - TLH #262 v. 1

A mighty Fortress is our God,  
A trusty Shield and Weapon;  
He helps us free from ev'ry need  
That hath us now o'er-taken.  
The old evil Foe  
Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight;  
On earth is not his equal.

## Prayer

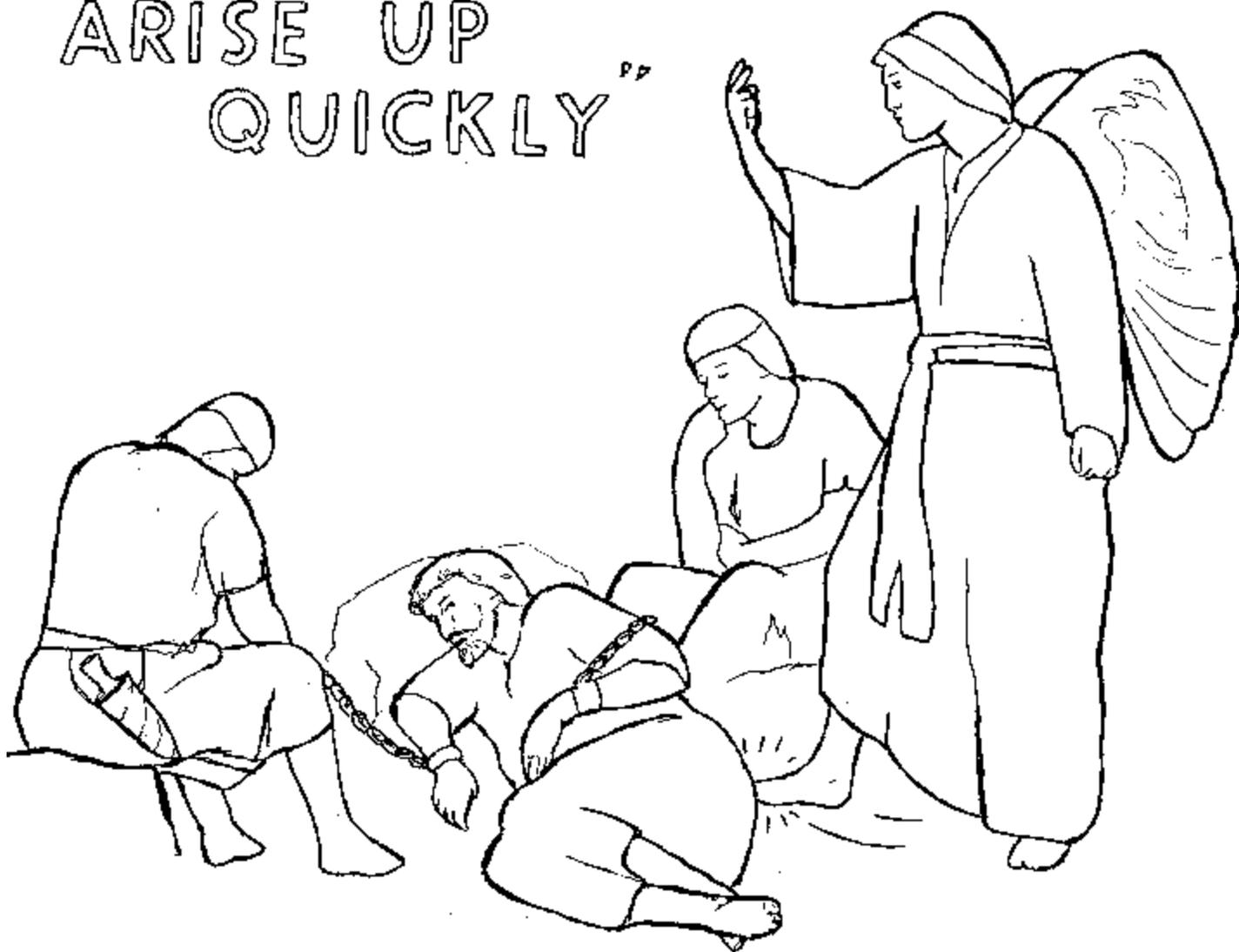
Dear Heavenly Father,

We have learned today how You saved Peter when he was put in jail for believing in You. Each day, because of sin, we are tempted to not trust that You will help us in all kinds of trouble. Please help us to put all our trust in You and remember that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can look forward to Heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus and Helping us in all our troubles. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# Peter Delivered From Prison

Acts 12

“ARISE UP  
QUICKLY”



# The Story

The Apostle Peter loved Jesus and served Him. A king named Herod didn't believe in Jesus. Many other people did not like those who loved Jesus either. To make those people happy, King Herod put Peter in jail. Peter always had four guards around his place in the prison. Friends of Peter prayed to God that Peter would remain safe and be let go soon.

One night, while Peter was sleeping, an angel came into his jail cell. A bright light filled the room. The angel touched Peter on the side to wake him up. "Quick, get up!" he said. The chains on Peter's wrists fell off. The angel then told Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter did, but he thought he was just dreaming. The two passed by the guards. The guards didn't even notice them.

Peter followed the angel. When they came to locked gates, the gates

miraculously unlocked and opened on their own. At the end of the street, the angel left and Peter realized he was awake! He walked to a friend's house. People were gathered there to pray for him. The doorkeeper named Rhoda was so surprised to see Peter that she forgot to let him in. Everyone was very happy that Peter was free.

The next morning, the soldiers were very confused. They could not find Peter. They looked hard, but he was gone.

Some time after this happened, King Herod gave a speech to a group of people in his kingdom. The people told him he was a god. Herod agreed. He should have given all praise to God, but he didn't. Because he didn't, an angel of God let Herod get sick and he died.

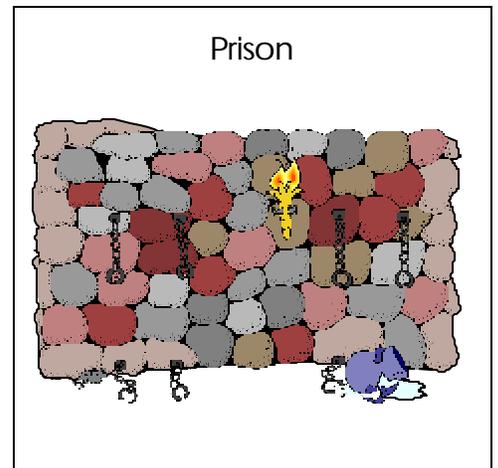
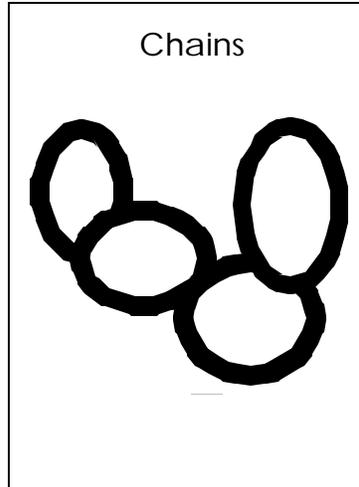
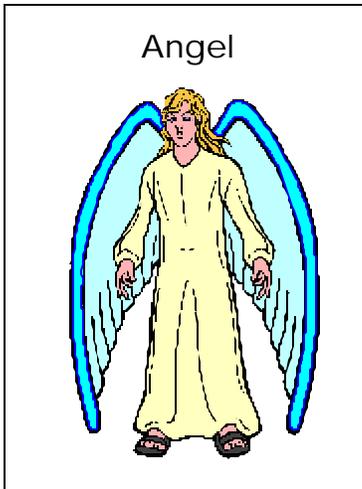
Do you think that Herod stopped the truth about Jesus from spreading?

## God delivered Peter from prison.

**Activity One** - Teacher: read the following statements. Student: circle the letter of the person who *might* have said each sentence. (P)eter (K)ing (A)ngel

1. P K A "I know that Jesus is with me, even in prison."
2. P K A "I want to hurt those believers in Jesus."
3. P K A "Get dressed and follow me!"
4. P K A "I am not dreaming, I really am free!"
5. P K A "How did Peter get past the guards?"
6. P K A "Quick, get up!"

## Activity Two - Tell how each of these pictures belongs in the story today.



## Activity Three - Read each statement. Decide if it is true or false, then circle True or False.

1. True False King Herod helped Peter escape from prison.
2. True False Rhoda was so excited that Peter was alive, she forgot to let him in.
3. True False Five guards watched Peter in his cell.
4. True False Peter's friends were happy that God helped Peter escape.

**God delivers His chosen ones from all evil.**

## Passages

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Matthew 7:7 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.

## Hymn - TLH #658 v. 1, 3

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the Foe;  
Forward into battle  
See His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
We have learned today how You saved Peter when he was put in jail for believing in You. Each day, because of sin, we are tempted to not trust that You will help us in all kinds of trouble. Please help us to put all our trust in You. Help us remember that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can look forward to Heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus and Helping us in all our troubles. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

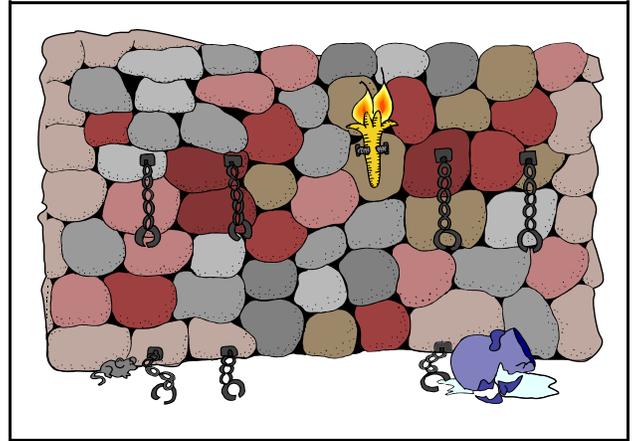
# Peter Delivered From Prison

## Acts 12

The picture shows a prison. Most people who went to prison did not expect to get out soon. Today's lesson tells of a miraculous rescue by an angel. Let's read more about how God sent His angel to deliver Peter.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We will learn today how You saved Peter when he was put in jail for believing in You. Each day, because of sin, we are tempted to not trust that You will help us in all kinds of trouble. Please help us to put all our trust in You and remember that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can look forward to Heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus and helping us in all our troubles. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



### The Story

Acts 12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. {2} Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. {3} And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. {4} So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

{5} Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

{6} And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. {7} Now

behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

{8} Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." {9} So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. {10} When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

{11} And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain



that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

{12} So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. {13} And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. {14} When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.

{15} But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

{16} Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. {17} But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

{18} Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers

about what had become of Peter. {19} But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death.

And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there. {20} Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country.

{21} So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. {22} And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" {23} Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

{24} But the word of God grew and multiplied.

{25} And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

## Outer Aim - God delivered Peter from prison.

### What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blanks.

"For where \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ together in \_\_\_\_\_ there am \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 18:20

"\_\_\_\_\_ and earth will \_\_\_\_\_ away, but \_\_\_\_\_ will by \_\_\_\_\_ pass \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 24:35

How do these passages relate to Peter, his fellow believers, and to you?  
Is the Lord with us right now?

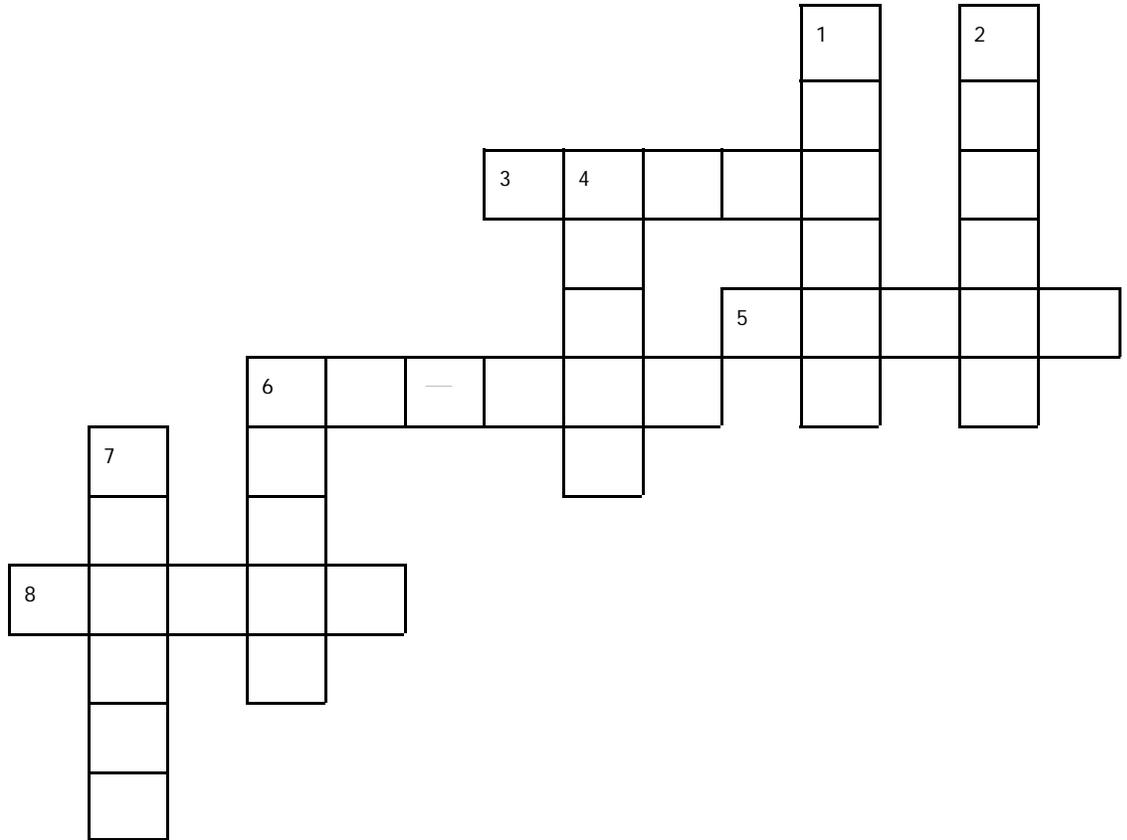
## What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle.

### ACROSS

3. She answered the door.
5. An \_\_\_ was sent to rescue Peter.
6. Peter was put into \_\_\_.
8. John's brother who was killed.

### DOWN

1. Peter was put into \_\_\_ while in prison.
2. The church was in constant \_\_\_ for Peter.
4. The wicked king.
6. \_\_\_ was put into prison.
7. There were \_\_\_ at the prison door.



## Passages

Mark 8:34-38 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

What is God telling us about our whole lives as Christians?

How can we practice this passage's message daily?

**Inner Aim - God delivers His chosen ones from all evil.**

**Your Turn** - Peter's friends kept on praying for Peter to be free. Write a prayer for someone you know who is in need of something. Include the Dear \_\_\_\_\_ and "In Jesus Name I pray. Amen" at the end.

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Hymn - TLH #658 v. 1, 3

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the Foe;  
Forward into battle  
See His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus constant will  
remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

### Prayer

Lord, You have taught us that he who would lose his life for Your sake will find it; that is, gain eternal life in heaven. Grant us the faith and spiritual strength never to waver in our faith in You regardless of the severity of the trial and troubles. Grant us a double portion of the Spirit of James and Peter that we too may spend eternity with You because of Your sacrifice for our sins. Grant us complete remission of all our sins. We trust You for our salvation. Amen.

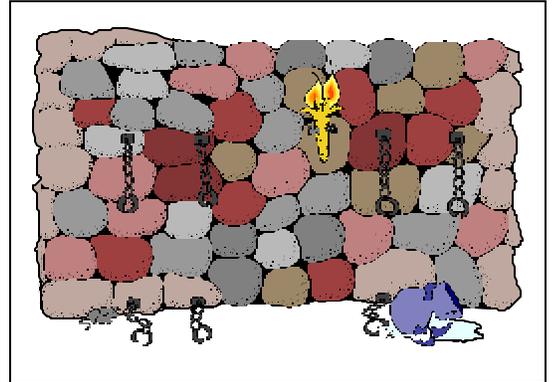
# Peter Delivered From Prison

## Acts 12

The picture shows a prison. Most people who went to prison did not expect to get out soon. Today's lesson tells of a miraculous rescue by an angel. Let's read more about how God sent his angel to deliver Peter.

### Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We will learn today how You saved Peter when he was put in jail for believing in You. Each day, because of sin, we are tempted to not trust that You will help us in all kinds of trouble. Please help us to put all our trust in You and remember that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can look forward to Heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus and helping us in all our troubles. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



### The Story - Acts 12

Acts 12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. {2} Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. {3} And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. {4} So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

{5} Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

{6} And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. {7} Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

{8} Then the angel said to him, "Gird

yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." {9} So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

{10} When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

{11} And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

{12} So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. {13} And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. {14} When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her



gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.

{15} But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

{16} Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. {17} But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

{18} Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. {19} But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.

{20} Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country.

{21} So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them.

{22} And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

{23} Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

{24} But the word of God grew and multiplied.

{25} And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

### **What God's Word Tells Us** - Fill in the blanks.

Matthew 18:20 - "For where \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ together in \_\_\_\_\_ there am \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst \_\_\_\_\_."

Matthew 24:35 - " \_\_\_\_\_ and earth will \_\_\_\_\_ away, but \_\_\_\_\_ will by \_\_\_\_\_ pass \_\_\_\_\_."

How do these passages relate to Peter, his fellow believers, and to you?  
Is the Lord with us right now?

## Outer Aim - God delivered Peter from prison.

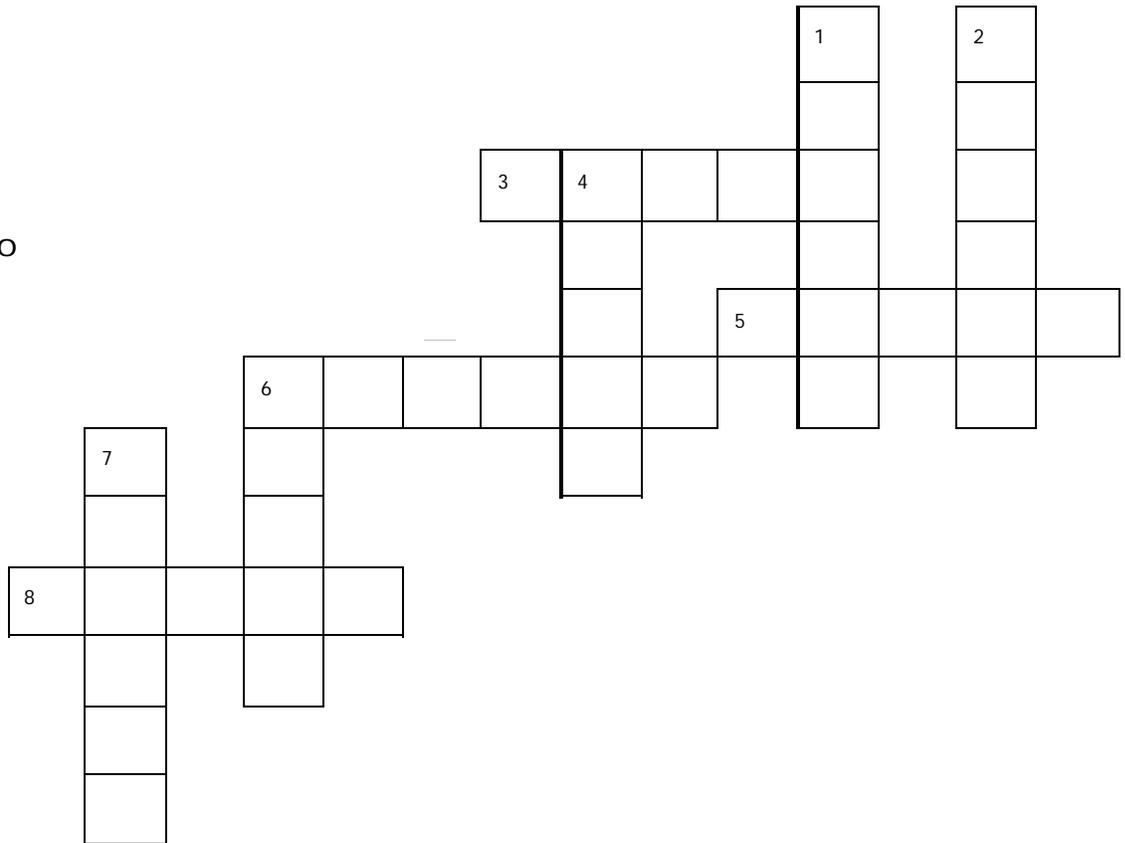
### What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle.

#### ACROSS

3. She answered the door.
5. An \_\_\_ was sent to rescue Peter.
6. Peter was put into \_\_\_.
8. John's brother who was killed.

#### DOWN

1. Peter was put into \_\_\_ while in prison.
2. The church was in constant \_\_\_ for Peter.
4. The wicked king.
6. \_\_\_ was put into prison.
7. There were \_\_\_ at the prison door.



## Passages

Mark 8:34-38 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

What is God telling us about our whole lives as Christians?  
How can we practice this passage's message daily?

## Inner Aim - God delivers His chosen ones from all evil.

**Your Turn** - Discussion Questions - This story takes place when the persecution of Christians was on the rise. We learned Peter was delivered from prison by an angel of God. The disciple James was killed. Does this mean that James was ignored by God? How do you know?

A friend of yours is having troubles. It can be hard to know what to say right on the spot. Choose one of the areas he/she may be struggling in and think of what you may say to him to comfort him/her. Use passages and ideas from today's lesson to guide your remarks. After thinking it through, write them down.

Being bullied at school  
Difficulties with a family member or teacher

Illness or death in their family  
Personal illness

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Hymn** - TLH #658 v. 1, 3

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.  
Christ, the royal Master,  
Leads against the Foe;  
Forward into battle  
See His banners go!  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.  
Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

**Prayer**

Lord, You have taught us that he who would lose his life for Your sake will find it; that is, gain eternal life in heaven. Grant us the faith and spiritual strength never to waiver in our faith in You regardless of the severity of the trial and troubles. Grant us a double portion of the Spirit of James and Peter that we too may spend eternity with You because of Your sacrifice for our sins. Grant us complete remission of all our sins. We trust You for our salvation. Amen.