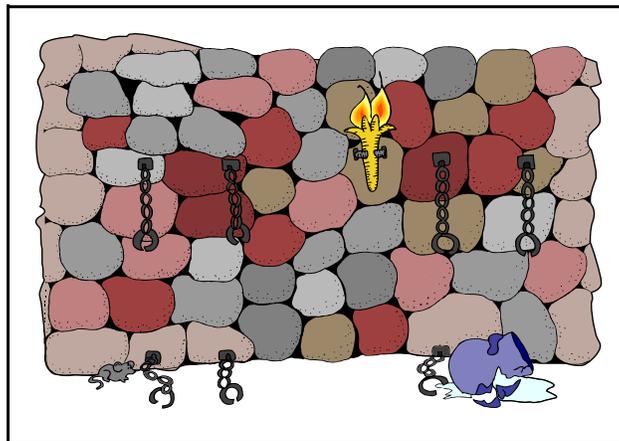


Peter Delivered From Prison

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?

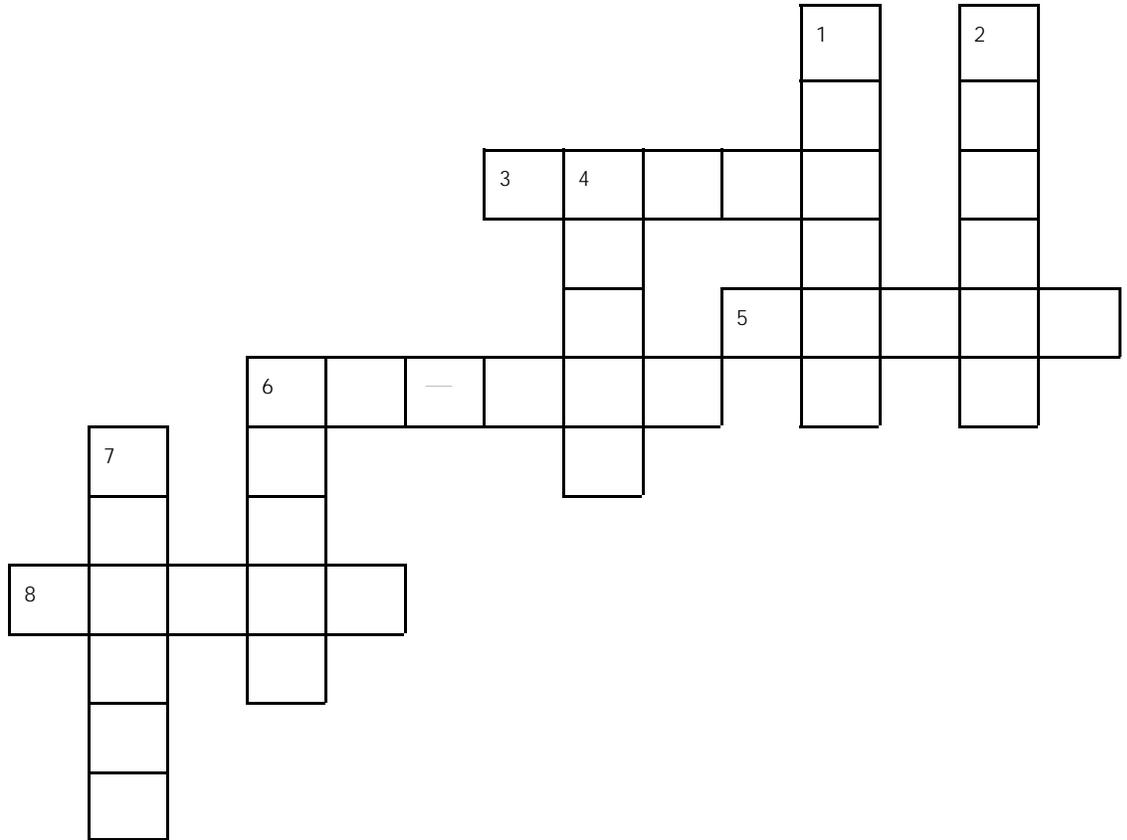
What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle.

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.