

# An Angel Frees Peter From Jail

Acts 12:1-18


The step into the mysteries of the spiritual realm is an easy one for some of your students. Their desire to know about the spirit world and their eagerness to find out about the future opens the door to danger, including consulting with tarot card readers and psychics and reading horoscopes. As you teach this study, be aware of your students' hunger to know more about mysterious spiritual issues. Encourage them to seek the truth about the spiritual realm and to not be led astray by exotic tales of the unknown.



► **Bible Point**  
Angels protect and help God's people.


**Key Verse**  
"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will thank God for sending his angels to protect and help them.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Mission Extremely Impossible</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create new worlds and try to serve other worlds.	sheet of newsprint, tape, marker, paper, pens, a few boxes, and 1 or 2 blankets per 4 students; CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Set out one pile of blankets and one pile of medium-sized boxes. Place all of the chairs in a corner of the room.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Network Exposé</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Create presentations that depict Peter's miraculous release from jail.	Bibles, pens, Bible Buzz <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline 	Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.
	<b>Researching Angels</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Search the Bible for facts about angels.	Bibles, 1 Bible concordance per 2 students, pens, Bible Buzz	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Unmet Needs</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Identify specific ways angels may be helping them.</p>	<p>Bible, pens <b>Teacher Pack: "Angel Cards"</b></p> 	<p>Separate the "Angel Cards."</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	Bible Buzz	
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





### Mission Extremely Impossible Supplies

sheet of newsprint,  
tape, marker, paper,  
pens, a few boxes, and  
1 or 2 blankets per 4  
students  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Spy Music” (track  
20)

### Mission Extremely Impossible Easy Prep

Set out one pile of  
blankets and one pile of  
medium-sized boxes.  
Place all of the chairs in  
a corner of the room.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Mission Extremely Impossible

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, have students form groups of four, and give each group a sheet of newsprint and a marker.

Say: **Welcome! I’ve got some really bad news for you. The world, as we know it, is over. But there’s good news! You have the next few minutes to create your own new worlds. On your newsprint, I’d like you to make a list of traits about your new world. I’ll give you some questions to get you started.**

Ask:

- What does this new world look like?
- Are there 24 hours in a day? When do people sleep?
- What are some of the rules of the society?
- What are the people like?
- What are the values of the people in your new world?
- What needs do the people in your world have?

Give groups time to answer these questions and to create their worlds.

Say: **Now that you’ve created descriptions of your new worlds, I’d like each group to use the materials that I’ve set out to build a special chamber that can instantly transport people to your new world.**

Give groups time to create their chambers. Encourage groups to use the boxes and blankets to create “walls” for their chambers and to decorate the walls with drawings that describe or illustrate their new worlds’ rules or environment. When they’ve finished building, give groups tape, and have them post the descriptions of their worlds on the outside of their chambers where they’ll be easy to read. When students have finished, allow groups to explore one another’s new worlds.

When groups have had a chance to visit the other worlds, have each group pair up with another group. After they have done this, say: **Your group has been chosen to act as ambassadors to your partners’ world. Your group’s mission is to discover your partners’ needs and to create a list of ways the people of your world can serve the people of your partners’ world.**

Distribute paper and pens, and give groups time to create their lists and read the other world’s descriptions. As groups are working, play the “Spy Music” (track 20 on the CD).



When groups have finished, allow them time to share their lists with one another. Then gather everyone in the center of the room.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to find ways to serve people from another world?
- How is this activity similar to the way that angels serve us?
- Have you ever seen the effects of angels serving our world? Explain.

Say: Today we're going to talk about how ► **ANGELS PROTECT AND HELP GOD'S PEOPLE**, how they have served our world, how someone benefited from angels working in our world, and what angels do. We're going to do this by creating an investigative report of an actual angelic encounter recorded in the Bible.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Network Exposé

#### What You'll Do ■■■■

Hold up the Bible Timeline and show kids the "An Angel Frees Peter" picture.

Have kids form trios. Distribute pens, and have kids turn to the "Bible TV" section of Bible Buzz.

Say: **You work for a news reporting service that always gets the story fast and works hard to get it right. You've just heard about what happened to Peter in prison, and you've been asked to create a news story for a broadcasting company. The company executives want you to present a story that exposes what you think really happened in this event involving Peter.**

Ask trios to read Acts 12:1-18.

Say: **You've got five minutes to create your story. Once you've worked out the story line, draw your stories from beginning to end using the six TV screens in Bible Buzz.**

After five minutes, say: **The company executives are expecting you to present your story in an extremely creative way. So instead of having just one person explain your story to the whole group, find a creative way to involve everyone in your group in the presentation. For example, you might assign each group member different portions of the story, or you might have two people act out the scenes on the TV screens while the third person narrates the story.**



#### Network Exposé Supplies

- Bibles
- pens
- Bible Buzz
- Teacher Pack**
- Bible Timeline

#### Network Exposé Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 9 pages from each Bible Buzz student book.





## Researching Angels Supplies

Bibles  
1 Bible concordance per  
2 students  
pens  
Bible Buzz

Give groups time to create their presentations. When groups are ready, have them present their stories to the rest of the class in a creative way.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you learn from these creative presentations?
- If you were living when this event happened, how would you have reacted?
- How do you think Peter felt as he left prison?
- How did angels help Peter?
- What does this story tell you about what angels do?

Say: **Imagine how you would feel if you were stuck in prison for a long time. Peter was in a terribly dangerous predicament. But he trusted God. ► ANGELS PROTECT AND HELP GOD’S PEOPLE.** And God’s angels were there to help Peter and meet his needs.

## Researching Angels

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **You’ve seen how angels affected Peter’s life, but do you think that angels can affect other things in our lives? Let’s find out.**

Have students form pairs. Give each pair a Bible concordance, a Bible, and a pen. Instruct pairs to look up the word *angel* or *angels* in their concordances, look up the corresponding verses, and write their observations about angels in Part 1 of the “Angel Résumé” in Bible Buzz. When they’ve finished, have each pair join with another pair to share observations. Then have several volunteers share what they discovered about angels with the whole group.

Say: **You’ve done some excellent work! But there’s more we can do. I’d like you to review what you found in your search about angels. Then I’d like you to work with your partner to write a job description for an angel in Part 2 of the “Angel Résumé.” Be sure to include the things that you discovered from your search and your discussion.**

Give pairs time to write their job descriptions. When they’ve finished, have pairs share their angel job descriptions with the whole group.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you learn in this activity about angels?
- If you were an angel, what type of needs do you think you’d try to meet?
- How do you think we should respond to angels?





Say: **We've learned a lot about angels today. Peter's rescue portrayed what angels do when they're directed by God. Understanding what angels do can be a little tricky since we usually can't see them. But we can be sure that angels are all around us. ► ANGELS PROTECT AND HELP GOD'S PEOPLE—that's us!—delivering us from trouble and helping us do God's will.**

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### **3** WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Unmet Needs

### **What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the Key Verse, Psalm 91:11: "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

Ask:

- **How do God's angels guard us?**
  - **When do we need God's angels to guard us?**
  - **Have you ever sensed God's angels guarding you or someone you love?**
- Explain.**

Say: **Peter was trapped in prison and probably thought that he was completely alone. But angels who were looking out for him surrounded Peter. When we have needs, it can feel like we're all alone. But the Bible makes it clear that God can send his angels to help and protect us.**

Give each person a pen and an "Angel Card" from the Teacher Pack. Have each student write on the card one need he or she has that other people might not see. For example, kids might write, "I need protection from a bully at school" or "I need help with schoolwork." To encourage honesty and not embarrass kids, allow them to remain anonymous as they write their needs on the cards. When kids have finished, collect the cards and shuffle them.

Redistribute the cards so each person gets someone else's card. On the back of the card, have kids write one or two ways that angels might help meet the need written on that card. Allow kids time to read both sides of the cards. Then gather everyone in a circle.

### **Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Based on what you wrote on the card, how does God use angels?**
- **What do angels do for us?**
- **How should we respond to what angels do for us?**



### **Unmet Needs Supplies**

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Bible  
pens  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Angel Cards"

### **Unmet Needs Easy Prep**

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Separate the "Angel  
Cards."





## Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

Say: **All of us have needs—whether we can see them or not. But God sees them, and when he does, he sends his angels to help us.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's each choose a Daily Challenge for the week to help us remember that ► ANGELS PROTECT AND HELP GOD'S PEOPLE.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on the Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Tell a friend about a time you felt protected by God's angels.**
- **Watch the sunrise or sunset and thank God for sending his angels to help you.**
- **Have someone read Hebrews 1:1-14 with you. Praise God for the gift of angels.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **► ANGELS PROTECT AND HELP GOD'S PEOPLE. Let's keep an eye out for angels by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

### Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about angels. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Invite kids to join in a responsive prayer, thanking God for his angels. Every time you





pause, have kids respond by praying, “Thank you, God, for commanding your angels to guard us in all our ways.”

Begin praying this prayer, pausing after each sentence to allow time for students to respond accordingly.

Pray: **God, there are times when we can't feel your presence, and we feel like we're being attacked on every side.** Pause. **We often feel like we're fighting spiritual forces that we can't see.** Pause. **Lord, we love you and desire to follow you.** Pause. **Help us do your will, and help us to not sin, even when sinning seems like the right choice.** Pause. **Thank you, God, for commanding your angels to guard us in all our ways. In Jesus' name, amen.**



