

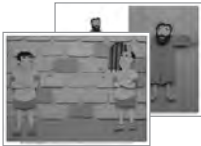


An Angel Frees Peter From Jail

Acts 12:1-18

We know that angels provide the music of heaven through their worship. Music is one of the best brain builders, and the window of opportunity for acquiring musical skill opens at birth. The voice is the first and primary musical instrument for children. Many children sing before they speak. A musically rich environment will help promote listening, reasoning, and self-control skills.

INFANT

| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 Getting Started | Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | God Helps Us Watch as an angel frees Peter from jail. | 2 white socks, safety pin, aluminum foil, sharpened pencil, scissors, yarn Teacher Pack: "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture, Peter in Prison figure (from the teaching picture set)  | Prepare the "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter's wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with. |
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Angel Tummy-Tickler Hear a tummy tickler about angels. | angel puppet from the "God Helps Us" activity | |
| | One Little Angel Hear and see a finger play about angels. | | |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson) | Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Bible Point
God's angels help us.

Key Verse

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

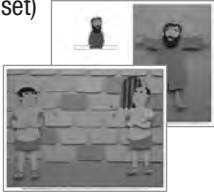
Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will hear the story of an angel's freeing Peter from jail and begin to learn that God sends his angels to help us.





TODDLER


| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1 Getting Started | Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs. | CD player Teacher Pack: CD | |
| 2 Bible Exploration | An Angel for Peter Help the angel free Peter from jail. | Bible, 2 white socks, safety pin, aluminum foil, sharpened pencil, scissors, yarn Teacher Pack: “Peter’s Prison Scene” teaching picture, Peter in Prison figure (from the teaching picture set)  | Prepare the “Peter’s Prison Scene” teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter’s wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with. |
| 3 Weaving Faith Into Life | Peter’s Angel Add sparkly sugar to make the angel’s robe shimmer. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Peter’s Angel” page (at the end of the lesson), glue sticks, saltshaker of white sugar | Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Set out glue sticks, a saltshaker filled with white sugar, and the “Peter’s Angel” handouts. |
| | Angel Help Play a game to remember the Bible story. | blocks | |
| | Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. | My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson) | |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



2-YEAR-OLD



| LESSON | WHAT CHILDREN DO | SUPPLIES | EASY PREP |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1 Getting Started</p> | <p>Sing and Celebrate Sing or listen to praise songs.</p> | <p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p> | |
| <p>2 Bible Exploration</p> | <p>An Angel Helps Peter Participate in the story of an angel rescuing Peter from jail.</p> | <p>Bible, 2 white socks, safety pin, aluminum foil, sharpened pencil, scissors, yarn, flashlight, glue, 1-inch square of satin per child Teacher Pack: “Peter’s Prison Scene” teaching picture, Peter in Prison figure (from the teaching picture set), “An Angel Frees Peter” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p>  | <p>Prepare the “Peter’s Prison Scene” teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter’s wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with.</p> |
| <p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p> | <p>Free Peter! Play a game to retell the story.</p> | <p>angel puppet from the “An Angel Helps Peter” activity</p> | |
| | <p>Angels All Around Make thumbprint angels to remember that God’s angels are all around us.</p> | <p>1 piece of black poster board, smiley-face stickers, shallow container of washable white paint</p> | |
| | <p>Weaving Faith at Home Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.</p> | <p>My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)</p> | <p>Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.</p> |

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



An Angel Frees Peter From Jail

Acts 12:1-18



BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Herod Imprisons Peter and Intends to Kill Him

.....

Herod wanted to make sure that Christian sympathizers would not be able to release Peter. Herod assigned four groups of four soldiers each to take turns guarding Peter—one soldier on each side of Peter and two at his cell door. These measures were extraordinary for such a prisoner.

Acts 12:5 describes something of a competition: Peter was securely in prison, guarded by 16 of Rome’s finest, handcuffed to a guard on each side of him. But on the other hand, God’s people were praying earnestly for Peter on the night that Herod intended to be Peter’s last night on earth.

An Angel Helps Peter Escape

.....

From the text, we know that Peter thought he was having a vision as he was released from prison. He had been awakened from sleep and suspected that he was only dreaming. Only after Peter’s chains had fallen off, after he and the angel had walked through the gates to the street, and after the angel had led him down the first street, did Peter come to the realization that he was really free and that God had worked a series of miracles to free him.

Peter Surprises Those Praying for Him

.....

The scene that unfolded when Peter arrived at Mark’s mother’s house is somewhat comical. Rhoda, the servant girl, came to see who was knocking at the door in the middle of the night. When she realized it was Peter, she was so excited that she ran back to tell the others without unlocking the door! And then the people who had been earnestly praying for Peter refused to believe that he could really be at the gate. Instead, they may have jumped to the conclusion that

Peter was already dead and that his guardian angel had come to tell them the news. And all the while, Peter was standing outside knocking. When they went to the door to see for themselves, they were astonished by the truth.

The Jesus Connection

.....

Find courage. You’re in a relationship with Jesus, a great defender who knows all and cannot be conquered.

Flex your muscle—your prayer muscle. God moves and works miracles for those who pray in accordance with his will. What do you need to pray about right now? You can write your prayer here.





INFANT

1 GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Sing "All Night, All Day" (track 14) to the babies anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with the infants.

 **All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.**
All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Sleep my child and take your rest,
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Pray the Lord your soul to bless,
Angels watching over me.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Sing "God Sends His Angels" (not on CD) to the tune of "Do Lord" to the babies anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with the infants. While singing, gently bounce a baby on your knees and clap his or her hands for the first three lines. On the last line, touch baby's hands to either side of his or her eyes.

 **God sends his angels to help me every day.** *(Point up; then place hand on chest.)*
God sends his angels to help me every day. *(Repeat motions.)*
God sends his angels to help me every day. *(Repeat motions.)*
Angels watch over me. *(Hold hand above eyes, and look around.)*

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

God Helps Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sit on the floor with an infant, and hold up the teaching picture.

Say: **Jesus had a good friend named Peter. The king put Peter in jail because Peter believed in Jesus. God sent his angel to take care of Peter.** Put the angel puppet on your hand. Using your free hand, untie the cutout of Peter from the teaching picture,



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "All Night, All Day" (track 14)

God Helps Us Supplies

2 white socks
safety pin
aluminum foil
sharpened pencil
scissors
yarn
Teacher Pack
"Peter's Prison Scene"
teaching picture
Peter in Prison figure (from the teaching picture set)

God Helps Us Easy Prep

Prepare the "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter's wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with.





Angel Tummy-Tickler Supplies

angel puppet from the “God Helps Us” activity

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

and hold Peter next to the angel puppet. **God’s angel helped Peter get out of jail.**
▶ **GOD’S ANGELS HELP US, too.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Angel Tummy-Tickler

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Put the angel puppet from the “God Helps Us” activity on your hand. Then do this tummy tickler with an infant, following the motions in the parentheses.

- Angels watch your tummy.** (*Tickle baby’s tummy with the angel puppet.*)
- Angels watch your nose.** (*Touch baby’s nose with puppet.*)
- Angels watch your hands and fingers,** (*stroke baby’s hand and fingers with puppet*)
- Angels near your toes.** (*Tickle baby’s toes with puppet.*)
- Angels near your side,** (*tickle baby’s side with puppet*)
- Angels next to you.** (*Tickle baby’s other side with puppet.*)
- Angels watch your front and back** (*tickle baby’s tummy and back*)
- And everything you do.** (*Hold both of baby’s hands in the air.*)

One Little Angel

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Sit next to an infant, and do this finger play.

- One little angel sent from above** (*sway one finger back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)
- Came to help us fill a house with love.**
- Two little angels sent down to earth** (*sway two fingers back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)
- Came to help us at play and at work.**
- Three little angels sent from God’s place** (*sway three fingers back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)
- Came to help baby stay warm and safe.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!



Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

TODDLER

1 GETTING
STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "All Night, All Day" (track 14) anytime during the lesson.

All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord.
All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Sleep my child and take your rest,
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Pray the Lord your soul to bless,
Angels watching over me.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Sing "God Sends His Angels" (not on CD) to the tune of "Do Lord" anytime during the lesson. Sing while sitting on the floor with toddlers, and follow the motions in the parentheses. Encourage the toddlers to do the motions with you.

God sends his angels to help me every day. *(Point up; then place hand on chest.)*
God sends his angels to help me every day. *(Repeat motions.)*
God sends his angels to help me every day. *(Repeat motions.)*
Angels watch over me. *(Hold hand above eyes, and look around.)*

2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

An Angel for Peter

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Acts 12, sit on the floor next to a toddler, and show him or her the teaching picture.



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "All Night, All Day"
(track 14)

An Angel for Peter Supplies

Bible
2 white socks
safety pin
aluminum foil
sharpened pencil
scissors
yarn
Teacher Pack
"Peter's Prison Scene"
teaching picture
Peter in Prison figure (from
the teaching picture set)

An Angel for Peter Easy Prep

Prepare the "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter's wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with.





Peter's Angel Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Peter's Angel" page (at the end of the lesson)
glue sticks
saltshaker of white sugar

! ALLERGY ALERT

Peter's Angel Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Set out glue sticks, a saltshaker filled with white sugar, and the "Peter's Angel" handouts.

Angel Help Supplies

blocks

Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Say: **The Bible tells us about one of Jesus' friends named Peter. Peter was put in jail by a mean king because Peter loved Jesus. Peter prayed to God. Peter's friends prayed for Peter, too. God sent his angel to help Peter.** Put the angel puppet on your hand. **God's angel took the chains off Peter's arms. Would you like to be an angel helper?** Touch the toddler with the angel puppet, and then help him or her untie the bow and remove Peter from the teaching picture. **Now Peter is free. God's angel helped Peter get away from the guards. Peter's friends were happy to see him. God's angel helped Peter, and ► GOD'S ANGELS HELP US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Peter's Angel

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with one child at a time, helping him or her spread glue over the angel's robe. Then let the child sprinkle sugar over the glue to create a sparkly picture. As each child works, explain that the Bible tells us that angels sometimes look shiny and bright.

Say: **God sent an angel to help Peter. You made an angel to remind you that ► GOD'S ANGELS HELP US, too.**

Angel Help

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Play this game with the toddlers, choosing one child at a time to be an angel.

Say: **God sent his angel to help Peter. God sends his angels to help us, too. Can you be like an angel and help me build with blocks?** Do the activity with the child; then choose another activity that works in the classroom, such as picking up toys, giving someone a drink, or distributing snacks. **You were like an angel. You helped me. God sends his angels to help us.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


Sing "All Night, All Day" (track 14) anytime during the lesson.

 **All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, angels watching over me.**

**Sleep my child and take your rest,
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
Pray the Lord your soul to bless,
Angels watching over me.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

Sing "God Sends His Angels" (not on CD) to the tune of "Do Lord" anytime during the lesson. As the children sing, encourage them to hold their hands to their eyes like binoculars.

 **God sends his angels to help me every day. (Point up; then place hand on chest.)
God sends his angels to help me every day. (Repeat motions.)
God sends his angels to help me every day. (Repeat motions.)
Angels watch over me. (Hold hand above eyes, and look around.)**

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

An Angel Helps Peter

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather the twos near you, open your Bible to Acts 12, and show the Peter in prison figure. Set the angel puppet next to you. Give a child a flashlight to hold.

Say: **A man named Peter loved telling people about Jesus. A mean king had Peter put in jail because Peter served Jesus. Tie the Peter figure onto the teaching picture. One night in jail, Peter and the guards were sleeping. Let's all pretend to be asleep. God sent an angel to get Peter.** Hold the angel puppet near Peter. **A bright light shone**



Sing and Celebrate Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "All Night, All Day" (track 14)

An Angel Helps Peter Supplies

- Bible
- 2 white socks
- safety pin
- aluminum foil
- sharpened pencil
- scissors, yarn, flashlight, glue
- 1-inch square of satin per child

Teacher Pack

- "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture
- Peter in prison figure (from the teaching picture set)
- "An Angel Frees Peter" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

An Angel Helps Peter Easy Prep

Prepare the "Peter's Prison Scene" teaching picture by using a pencil point to poke holes in the pre-marked places. Thread a 6-inch piece of yarn through the two holes at either side of where Peter will be placed. Cut out the Peter in Prison figure. Use the yarn to tie around Peter's wrists in a bow, securing the figure to the jail scene. Create an angel puppet by pushing one balled-up white sock into the toe of another white sock. Use a safety pin to attach an aluminum foil halo. Do not give this puppet to the children to play with.



in the jail. “Wake up! Wake up!” said the angel. Give each child one small piece of satin or other smooth, shiny fabric. Lay out the “Angel Frees Peter” poster on the floor. Spread a thin layer of glue over the angel’s clothes in the picture. Encourage children to stick their pieces of fabric on the glue.

Have the child with the flashlight shine the light on the teaching picture.

Say: **The angel helped Peter get away from the jail.** Untie the picture of Peter, and hand it to a 2-year-old. **Peter left quickly.** Have the child with the Peter figure run around the story area one time. **Everyone, show me how excited Peter and his friends must have been.**

God’s angel helped Peter leave the jail. ► GOD’S ANGELS HELP US, too.

Retell the story several times, allowing different children to use the flashlight and hold the Peter figure.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Free Peter!

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Form groups of three. Have trio members hold hands in a line and then sit down. Explain that the two children on the ends of each line are the guards and the inside child is Peter. Put the angel puppet from the “An Angel Helps Peter” activity on your hand, and turn off the lights in the classroom. Tell the children that when you turn on the light, the “angel” will come over to one of the groups and take Peter by the hand. Then the two of you will go to free another Peter. Play until all of the children acting as Peter have been freed. Then the children can regroup to allow another child a chance to be Peter.

Ask:

- **Whom did God send to help Peter?** Let children respond.

Say: ► **GOD’S ANGELS HELP US, too!**

Angels All Around

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Lay a large sheet of black poster board on a table or floor. Set out a shallow container with a thin layer of washable white paint. Help the twos place smiley-face stickers all over the poster board. Explain that the stickers are like us. Then show children how to press their thumbs into the paint and then make thumbprints all around the smiley faces.

Free Peter! Supplies

angel puppet from the
“An Angel Helps Peter”
activity

Angels All Around Supplies

1 piece of black poster
board
smiley-face stickers
shallow container of
washable white paint



Say: **Look at all the angels you made! It looks like there are angels all around us! God gives us angels to help us.**

You can leave this activity set up, as twos will enjoy returning to it.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 9 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.



HOME
CONNECT®

Music Makers

We know that in addition to being helpers of men and messengers of God, angels provide the music of heaven. Music is one of the best brain builders, and the window of opportunity for acquiring musical skill opens at birth. A musically rich environment will help promote listening, reasoning, and self-control skills. The voice is the first and primary musical instrument for children. Even if you feel you can't carry a tune, sing songs of God's love to your child.

OK
TO COPY

Growing With Jesus

Your child learned God's angels help us (from Acts 12:1-18). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

One Little Angel

Sit next to your infant, and do this finger play.

One little angel sent from above (*sway one finger back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)

Came to help us fill a house with love.

Two little angels sent down to earth (*sway two fingers back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)

Came to help us at play and at work.

Three little angels sent from God's place (*sway three fingers back and forth; then wiggle fingers on one hand from above your head to the floor, as if showing rain*)

Came to help baby stay warm and safe.

Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Look for a special angel picture to put in your child's room as a reminder that angels help us.
- Look for pictures of angels in a favorite Bible storybook, and talk about the people whom angels have helped.

TODDLER

Angel Help

Play this game with your toddler. Have your child pretend to be an angel.

Say: **God sent his angel to help Peter. God sends his angels to help us, too. Can you be like an angel and help me build with blocks?** Do the activity with your child, and then choose another activity that works well at home, such as picking up toys or giving someone a drink. **You were like an angel. You helped me. God sends his angels to help us.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Angels All Around

Lay a sheet of black poster board or construction paper on a table or floor. Set out a shallow container with a thin layer of washable white paint. Help your 2-year-old place smiley-face stickers all over the poster board. Explain that the stickers are like us. Then show your child how to press his or her thumb into the paint and then make thumbprints all around the stickers.

Say: **Look at all the angels you made! It looks like there are angels all around us! God gives us angels to help us.**



Peter's Angel



**OK
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Illustrated by Nancy Munger.



