



3, 2, 1...Freeze!

Peter's Great Escape

BIG IDEA: I can pray for my friends at church.

BIBLE BASIS: Acts 12:1–19

KEY VERSE: “Where two or three people gather in my name, I am there with them.” Matthew 18:20

★ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

LOCKED UP

Supplies: Padlock (1–2), keys (4–5 random keys + the key to the pad lock), chain (1)

Directions: Use the padlock to lock the two ends of a chain together. Allow the children to see how strong the chain is by trying to pull it apart. Next, show the children all of the keys. Tell them that one (and only one) of the keys will open the lock. Set a timer on your phone at one minute and see if they can unlock the padlock before the timer goes off.

Say: Without the key, you could never break this chain or this lock. Our true Bible story for today is about a man who was locked up in a chain like this. He didn't have a key, but he broke free anyway. We're going to find out how and we're going to learn that **I can pray for my friends at church.**

Question: Do you think there's anyone in the world strong enough to break this chain?

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

PASS A PRAYER

Supplies: Emoji Prayer Cards (8 sick cards, 8 sad cards, 8 scared cards), Pen or marker (1)

Directions: Spread the Emoji Prayer Cards in the middle of the group. When it's their turn, each child can pick one of the three cards (sick, sad, or scared) that best describes how they're feeling. As each child chooses, write their name on the card and a brief description of why they are sick, sad, or scared. When finished, hand the card back to the child. After all of the children have had a turn, lead them in singing the first verse to "Jesus Loves Me." While singing, pass the cards in one direction from person to person around the circle. When the chorus is finished, stop passing. Everyone should then have someone else's card. Tell the children to take that card home as a reminder to pray for that child throughout the week.

"Jesus Loves Me"

Jesus loves me, this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. (3x)
The Bible tells me so.

PRAYER CHAIN (Application Activity)

Supplies: Paper chain strips (5 per child), stapler (1)

Directions: Give each child 5 strips of paper. Help them loop and staple the strips together to form a chain with 5 links. When everyone is finished, have the children slip the chains onto their wrists. Then, following the story points below, reenact the story:

- Let's lay down like Peter and pretend to sleep.
- An angel poked Peter in the side and woke him up. Let's all wake up.
- Suddenly, the chains fell off of Peter. Let's drop our chains to the ground.
- The angel said, "Get up! Follow me!" Let's stand up and run in place.
- Peter passed one guard. He passed two guards. Let's run very quietly.
- Oh no! There's a gate. Let's stop running.
- The gate opened by itself! It's a miracle! Let's run to our friend's house.
- We made it! We can stop running now.

Say: Peter was in BIG trouble, so his church friends prayed for him. Jesus heard their prayers and helped Peter escape. We can be just like Peter's friends. **We can pray for our friends at church too.**

Directions: Ask the children if they need prayer for anything, then lead the children in praying for each other.

May 7-8

Small Group Lesson | Preschool



OVER UNDER RACE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Ball or balloon (1 per group)

Today's Bible verse:

"Where two (*hold up two fingers*) or three (*hold up three fingers*) people gather (*alternate hands as if inviting kids towards you*) in my name, I am there with them (*give yourself a hug*)." Matthew 18:20 (*extend hands like you're holding a book*).

Directions: Practice the verse together until the children can remember it. When ready, divide the children into two groups. Have the children in one group line up, single-file, facing the same direction with about 12 inches of space between each child. Give the ball or balloon to the child in the front of the line. Have that child pass the ball with both hands over their head to the child behind them. The child behind them must receive the ball with both hands and pass it under/between their legs to the child behind them. Each child must alternate between passing the ball over their head and under their legs until it reaches the end of the line.

At the same time, the other group must recite the Bible verse aloud with hand motions while the first group is passing the ball. If they can recite the entire verse before the ball reaches the end of the line, they win the round. Have the groups switch roles and repeat. Continue playing rounds for as long as interest allows.

WIGGLE FREEZE (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: None

Directions: Tell the children that when you say, "Wiggle," they can move and wiggle in whatever way they want, but when you say, "Freeze," they have to stop and remain totally still until someone is caught moving. Begin by repeatedly saying "Wiggle" for as long as you would like, then say "Freeze!" The children will freeze in place. Watch closely to see which child moves first. Whichever child moves first, ask that child what happened first in today's Bible story. (They don't have to tell the whole story, just the first part.) If necessary, allow the other children to help. When finished, begin saying "Wiggle" again and repeat the above instructions. For each additional round, ask the child who moves first to tell what happened next in the story. Continue playing until the whole story has been told.

COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Question: If you were Peter, would you have been surprised when the angel showed up and made your chains fall off? Why or why not?

Question: Peter's friends prayed for him. Who are your friends at church? How could you pray for them?

Say: In today's Bible story, Peter's church friends prayed for Peter. Jesus heard their prayers and helped Peter escape from jail. **We can pray for our friends at church too.**

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Small Group Lesson | Preschool



Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking Jesus for giving us friends at church.