

LESSON 2

PETER IN PRISON

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Our Prayers for Others

SCRIPTURE: Acts 12

GOD'S BIG STORY: The apostle Peter is in prison for teaching the good news about Jesus. But believers in Jesus pray for him, and God miraculously rescues Peter from prison because God hears our prayers for others.

Activity: Family and Friends

Activity: God Hears Us!

Worship

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: God Hears!

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

Activity: Family and Friends

SUPPLIES: picture of your family or friends, toy people

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! Today, we are going to talk about praying for other people. When we pray for others, we can know that God hears us! I brought a picture to show you. Hold up picture for kids to see.

Who do you think is in this picture? Point to the people, saying their names and their relationship with you. **Yes, this is my family! Who is in your family?** Encourage kids to name the people in their families. **These are all people we love! And we can pray for the people we love!**

Now, let's make pretend families with these people. Point to the toy figures. Invite kids to play with the toy people to make “families.”

Activity: God Hears Us!

SUPPLIES: beanbags (1 per kid), large plastic hoop or small rug

Place the large hoop or small rug on the floor and have kids sit in a circle around the outside. Give each kid one beanbag to hold, or you can hold onto the beanbags and pass them to the kids.

Today, we're going to learn that God hears us. When I call your name, you can put your beanbag here and say your name. Point to the hoop or rug.

Call the kids one at a time, saying, **“God hears (child's name) praying!”** Wait for the kid to place her beanbag on the rug or inside the hoop and shout her name before calling the next child. Play until all the kids have had a turn.

Leader Tip: To help kids wait for their turn, give directions about where they should keep their hands or beanbag (tucked into their laps, on their knees, etc.).

Our Wonder Truth today is GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS FOR OTHERS.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD HEARS—Cup your hands around your ears.

OUR PRAYERS—Fold your hands in prayer.

FOR OTHERS.—Point to the people around you.

Worship

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: songs from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today, we're learning that God hears our prayers for others. He wants to hear you pray for your family, friends, and neighbors.

Let's sing together about how God hears us.

Play songs from the [Power of Prayer Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Video](#)

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Peter. Encourage the kids to say, "Peter." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Peter!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

Today, during our story, we are going to listen for the word pray. When you hear the word pray, you can fold your hands like you are praying. Model the actions for the kids and practice together.

There was a man from the church in the book of Acts named Peter. Some people weren't happy he was talking about Jesus so much. So they threw Peter into prison.

But while Peter was in prison, people from the church prayed (fold hands) hard to God for him. God heard the prayers (fold hands) and answered the people's prayers (fold hands) for Peter. God sent an angel to set him free from prison. An angel woke Peter saying, "Quick! Get up!"

Immediately, the chains fell off Peter's wrists. He got up and followed the angel out of the prison! The angel disappeared and Peter realized that God had rescued him!

When Peter showed up at the house where his friends were, they were praying (fold hands). A servant girl named Rhoda heard Peter's voice at the door. She was so excited that she forgot to let Peter in! When they finally let Peter in, they realized that God had heard their prayers (fold hands) for Peter.

When we pray (fold hands) for others, God hears us. We can come to Him with our prayers (fold hands) because God hears our prayers (fold hands) for others.

Leader Tip: Do the actions along with the kids to help prompt them as they listen.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. I'm going to say the names of people we can pray for, and you can say them after me!

God, You hear us when we pray. Thank You! So today, God, we pray for (name the kids and teachers in the room and pause for kids to repeat each name after you. You can also say broader categories, such as friends and neighbors, while being sensitive to different relationships). **In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold out their hands in front of them with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May you go out this week knowing that God made you, He knows you, and He loves you. He will hear your prayers!**

Activity: God Hears!

In God's big story today, we heard how Peter was set free because of his friends' prayers! When you hear me knock on different things, you can say, "God hears!"

Walk around the room and knock on different things, such as doors, bookshelves, toys, or the floor. You might also say, "Knock, knock" as you are knocking. Encourage the kids to shout, "God hears!" You can also let the kids take turns knocking.