



God Frees Peter from Prison

Acts 12:1–24



LESSON GOAL

Students will understand that God blesses His servants but punishes His enemies.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Explain why Herod was persecuting the apostles.
- Describe how Peter escaped from prison.
- Tell why the believers didn't believe Peter was at the door.
- Explain why Herod was punished by God.

KEY VERSE

“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.’ —Acts 12:11

APPLICATION

- Realize that suffering for Jesus is a blessing (1 Pet. 3:14).
- Believe that God works through prayer.
- Trust God because He cares for His servants.
- Examine when you have glorified yourself rather than God.

NEXT WEEK

The Gentiles Are Saved by Faith
Acts 15:1–35

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are...

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed:

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point them to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

After the conversion of Saul, the church in Judea, Samaria and Galilee had peace for approximately 10 years. God blessed the church with a period of rest in which the church continued to expand. Although the persecution of the church had subsided, the majority of Jews remained opposed to the Gospel. The Jews’ visible persecution of the church had stopped but their internal hatred for the Lord Jesus only grew. The respite from persecution lasted until 44 AD when the first apostle was martyred. In Acts 12, Luke records how God powerfully blessed His servant Peter but punished His enemy Herod Agrippa. Whether one is blessed or punished is determined by how each person responds to God’s Son. Regardless of man’s response, God will be glorified when the reign of His Son continues to spread through the preaching of the Gospel.

God Blesses His Servant (Acts 12:1–19)

When King Herod Agrippa, the grandson of Herod the Great, wanted to solidify his control over the Jewish area, the king “stretched out his hand to harass some form the church” (Acts 12:1). The king believed that the best way to gain favor with the Jews was by persecuting the church. Herod “pleased the Jews” when he had James the apostle arrested and executed (Acts 12:2–3). James was the first apostle to be martyred. James’ death by beheading (“with the sword”) indicates that he may have been found guilty of leading the people to follow false gods (Deuteronomy 13:12–15). Seeing how James’ murder satisfied the Jews’ hatred, Herod arrested Peter “intending to bring him before the people after Passover” (Acts 12:4). After the Days of Unleavened Bread (the week-long feast following Passover), Herod planned on trying Peter before the multitudes of Jews who had come to the city to celebrate Passover (12:3–4). Just as he had killed James, Herod Agrippa intended to kill Peter in order to increase his popularity among the Jews.

Even though they had seen James killed, neither Peter nor the church stopped trusting God. During Peter’s imprisonment, “constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church” (12:5). The saints trusted that the same God who had glorified Himself in James’ death could glorify himself in Peter’s rescue. The night before his trial the church was “gathered together praying” (12:12). Peter similarly trusted in God’s sovereignty. The night before his trial, Peter trusted the Lord enough to fall asleep (12:6).

God answered the church’s prayer in such a startling way that both Peter and the church had a hard time believing what God had done. From man’s perspective, Peter was in an impossible situation. He was chained “with two chains between two soldiers” (12:6). Other soldiers guarded the prison doors. (Herod had appointed four squads of soldiers to guard Peter. Each squad consisted of four

soldiers (12:4.) God answered the church's prayer not by granting Peter the grace to suffer for the name of Christ but by sending an angel to rescue him from prison. After the angel shook Peter awake, "his chains fell off his hands" (12:7). Still groggy, Peter was given explicit instructions by the angel to get dressed and follow (12:8). Peter obeyed even though he "thought he was seeing a vision" (12:9). Peter and the angel walked past both the first and second guard without anyone noticing until finally they reached the iron gate which led out into the city (12:10). The iron gate "opened to them of its own accord" (12:10)! It wasn't until the angel disappeared that Peter realized that he had really escaped. Peter said to himself: "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people" (12:11).

When Peter came to the home of Mary, the believers had as hard a time believing that Peter had escaped as Peter himself had! Although the believers had met to pray for Peter, they did not expect God to deliver him in such a miraculous way. When Peter knocked on the door, a girl named Rhoda recognized Peter's voice. In her excitement, the girl left Peter standing outside while she ran in to tell the others (12:12–14). At first, the believers thought she was out of her mind, but because she was so insistent they concluded she had seen his angel (12:15). (Jews believed that each person had a guardian angel). Still outside, Peter continued knocking until the door was finally opened (12:16). Peter quickly quieted the astonished saints, retold to them how God had rescued him from prison, and instructed them to tell James what had happened. (James was a brother of Jesus who had become an important elder in the Jerusalem church (12:17).) Perhaps the astonished believers reconvened their prayer meeting to praise God for his deliverance of the apostle.

The search for Peter began the next morning (12:18). When the soldiers discovered Peter was missing, they frantically looked for him, no doubt distraught that the impossible rescue had happened during their watch. Knowing that Herod would be furious over his lost prisoner and that the soldiers would be desperate to recapture him, Peter most likely left Jerusalem right after visiting the believers. Herod did all he could to find the apostle, but when Peter was not found, he executed the soldiers who had been responsible for guarding him (12:19). According to Roman law, when a prisoner escaped, his guard suffered the punishment his prisoner was going to receive. Instead of increasing his popularity among the Jews, Herod had to deal with the disappointed Jews who hated Jesus and longed for Peter's execution. Perhaps his embarrassment was the reason for Herod's leaving Jerusalem and going to Caesarea (12:19).

God Punishes His Enemy (Acts 12:20–24)

When God demonstrated His power by releasing Peter, Herod did not humble himself but continued in his opposition against God. Herod was finally judged by God for being His enemy. Luke records how Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon (for reasons unknown) and cut off food to those cities (12:20). The inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon had no choice but to send delegates to ask Herod for peace. Herod continued to exalt his power at a feast the next day by dressing himself in his "royal apparel" and giving a speech to those from Tyre and Sidon (12:21). The historian Josephus tells that Herod had put on a garment made from silver which reflected the brightness of the sun. The humiliated people gave Herod the praise he desired and shouted, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" (12:22). When Herod accepted the praise from the people, "immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died" (12:23). Josephus records that Herod suffered intensely for five days before dying. The Lord cursed Herod with tapeworms because he did not give glory to God. God's wrath is similarly coming upon all sinners who do not glorify Him (Rom. 1:18–23).

Conclusion

From the beginning to the end of Acts 12, Luke describe how God is sovereign over the growth of the church. The same God who is sovereign over the death of His apostle in Acts 12:2 is sovereign over the Gospel's spread in Acts 12:24. God's plans are not thwarted by evil men like Herod Agrippa. Within the context of God's unstoppable plan for His church, Luke shows how God responds to His servants differently than He does His enemies. Both Peter and the church enjoy the blessings of being in a right relationship with God. God answered the prayers of the saints and rescued His apostle in such an amazing way that both Peter and the church had a tough time believing it had really happened. In stark contrast to God's blessing upon the saints is His punishment of Herod Agrippa. Even though Herod's death didn't directly have to do with the church, Luke records God's punishment as a reminder that those who glorify themselves instead of God will be punished.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth."
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Who did God send an angel to talk with?

God sent an angel to Cornelius, a centurion, telling him to send for Peter.

What did Peter see as he was on top of the roof?

He saw a vision of a sheet come down from heaven and tell him to get up and kill and eat.

How many times did this happen?

This happened three times.

What happened after Peter's dream?

After Peter awoke from his vision the men who Cornelius had sent arrived at the house.

What did Peter do with the men?

The Holy Spirit told Peter that He had sent them and to go with them. So he went with them.

Why did Cornelius want Peter to come?

He wanted to know how to be saved.

Who was at Cornelius' house when Peter arrived?

Cornelius had invited his family and close friends to come to his house.

What did Peter tell the people and Cornelius when he arrived?
He told them that God had opened the door for all to be saved. He then told them how to be saved.

What happened to show that God did accept the Gentiles into His family?
The Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles who were there.

What did the Jews think who saw these things?
The Jews saw what happened and were amazed because the Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles.



Difficult Concepts

Why were the believers at the home of Mark's mother?: Believers gathered at the home of Mark's mother in order to pray for Peter's release from prison. Christians did not have churches to go to in Peter's time. They did not go to a church building like we do on Sundays. They met in homes, usually of wealthy people, to pray and listen to preaching.

Apostle: "Apostle" is a special title for men sent by God to accomplish a specific job. To be an apostle, the men had to be assigned specifically by God. They also must have seen Jesus Christ personally. James is the name of one of the original twelve disciples who was also an apostle. He is probably the James mentioned here. Jesus also had a brother named James, but he is not referred to as an apostle. Galatians 1:19 is the only possible exception to that fact.

Martyrdom: James the apostle is the second martyr we have seen in the book of Acts. This concept of martyrdom can be hard to grasp for children who live in countries free of religious persecution. Yet even still, martyrdom continues to be a reality today. For this reason, this would be a good time to go over martyrdom that continues to take place in the world. Bring in a map and highlight those countries where believers still die for their faith in Christ. Once the class has observed those areas of continued religious persecution, take the time to pray for those countries (including those believers who are suffering within).



Taking the Credit

How do you take credit for good things that you really shouldn't? Ask the students if they ever let their parents praise them for cleaning up their bedroom, when really their brother or sister did it. Ask them if they have ever surprised their mom by doing the dishes, but failed to mention it was a brother or sister's idea. Herod took the credit for speaking like God. Instead of being honest, he let people say he was a god. Maybe the students can sing or play the piano. That ability comes from God, and unlike Herod they should admit God gave them that ability.

Bible Lesson

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Passage Outline

God Blesses His Servants (Acts 12:1–19)

God Punishes His Enemy (Acts 12:20–24)

Reading of the Text

Read Acts 12:1–24

Introduction

That our enemies look different than our friends is no surprise. Where our enemies hate us, our friends love us. One expresses opposition towards us, and the other loyalty. Well God in this way is no different. He too has those who hate Him and those who genuinely love Him. To each of these individuals God responds very differently. In today’s lesson we see such a difference. Luke records in Acts 12 how God deals with His servants differently than He does His enemies.



Lead-off Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: At the beginning of today’s lesson, why was King Herod persecuting the church?

Answer: King Herod wanted very much to increase his control over the Jewish people. One way he believed he could do this was by persecuting the church. He even saw this to be true when he had James the apostle arrested and executed. Seeing how James’ death pleased the Jews, Herod decided to have Peter arrested. Just as he had killed James, Herod intended to kill Peter in order to increase his popularity among the Jews.

LOQ: How did the church respond to their persecution and Peter’s imprisonment?

Answer: Even though they had seen James killed and Peter imprisoned, this did not stop the church from trusting in God. During Peter’s imprisonment, Luke records that the church continually prayed for the apostle Peter (12:5). They believed that the same God who had glorified Himself in James’ death could glorify himself in Peter’s rescue.

LOQ: How did God answer the church’s prayers for Peter?

Answer: God answered the church’s prayer not by granting Peter the strength to suffer for the name of Christ but by sending an angel to rescue him from prison. Luke records that when the angel had struck Peter on the side, awakening him

from his sleep, his chains immediately fell off (12:7). From there the angel instructed Peter to get up, get dressed, and follow him out of the prison and into the city. God had miraculously allowed Peter to escape without any of the guards noticing him.

LOQ: Why did the believers not believe that it was Peter knocking on the door of Mary's house?

Answer: God had answered the church's prayer in such an amazing way that both Peter and the church had a hard time believing what God had done. From their point of view, Peter seemed to be in an impossible situation. He was chained "with two chains between two different soldiers" and other soldiers even guarded the prison doors (12:6). The only way they could understand Peter knocking on the door was to conclude that it was his angel. Although the believers had met to pray for Peter, they had not expected God to deliver him in such a miraculous way

LOQ: What happened to the soldiers who were supposed to be guarding Peter?

Answer: When the soldiers discovered Peter was missing, they frantically began looking for him the next morning (12:18). Herod did all he could to find the apostle, but when Peter was not found, he had the soldiers who had been responsible for guarding him put to death (12:19). This was a common demand of Roman law. When a prisoner escaped, his guard suffered the punishment his prisoner was going to receive.

LOQ: How does Herod respond to Peter's escape?

Answer: When God demonstrated his power by releasing Peter, Herod did not humble himself but continued in his hatred toward God. Luke records that Herod released his anger and frustration on the people of Tyre and Sidon by cutting off all food to those cities.

LOQ: How do the people of Tyre and Sidon respond to King Herod?

Answer: Dependent upon Herod for food, the humiliated people of Tyre and Sidon gave Herod the praise he desired. When he had delivered his speech to the two cities, they all together shouted that Herod's voice was "the voice of a god, and not of a man!" (12:22). Herod easily accepted the praise from the people.

LOQ: How does God deal with Herod there in Tyre and Sidon?

Answer: When Herod accepted the praise from the people, "immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died" (12:23). The Lord had punished Herod because he did not give glory to God.

LOQ: How does God use James' death and Peter's release from prison?

Answer: Luke records that after these things had taken place, that "the word of God increased and multiplied" (12:24). The sovereign God had used these events to continue the spread of the gospel.

Summary

In today's lesson, Luke shows how God responds to His servants differently than He does His enemies. Since Peter and the church continued to love God and trust in Him, they enjoyed the wonderful blessing of being in right relationship with God. Because of such a relationship, the church's prayers were answered and the apostle Peter was miraculously released from prison. Since King Herod proved to be God's enemy, his fate would be far different than that of God's servants. Instead of receiving blessing, Herod received a very costly punishment. Luke records that because Herod did not give glory to God, Herod was cursed by God and died. Herod's punishment serves as a reminder that those who glorify themselves instead of God will be punished. To those who continue to love and remain loyal to Him, God will bless greatly.

Application

Peter's miraculous release from prison is proof that God cares for His servants. Such care should encourage each of us to continue trusting God just as the church did in today's lesson. As we continue to trust in Him, we can be confident that God definitely works through the prayers of his servants. While this serves as a blessing to us, God's enemies will not receive the same. Instead of blessing, they will receive God's punishment. In fact, Herod's punishment in today's lesson should be a reminder that God punishes those who oppose Him, and should encourage us to strive to give God the glory in all that we do and say.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate flannel graph pieces with the lesson.



Glory Box

Before class, prepare a box by elaborately decorating it with the materials of your choosing. This will be the glory box. After describing how God's servants, Peter and James, gave glory to God in today's lesson, have the children write down different ways that they can give God glory also. Once they have made their lists, have each student deposit their list into the "Glory Box."



And the Chains Fell Off

To prepare for the events of Peter's imprisonment and release, have the children remove their shoes. Right before the lesson (to avoid disruptions too soon), wrap paper chains around the children's hands while they sit and listen to what happened to Peter. Then, immediately after reading Acts 12:7, let the children stand and break their chains, letting them fall to the floor. Then have them put their shoes back on.



Puppet Skit

Have a puppet brag about how well he can sing, then demonstrate with a few bars from "Jesus loves me." Let him talk about how fast he can run as you move him back and forth on the stage. Have him boast about what a good speaker he is with such a wonderful voice. Then take your hand out and confront the puppet with the



fact that you make him sing and move and talk. Tell the students how foolish it is for a puppet to boast about all the things he can do. Then ask the students if they ever boast about things God helps them to do.

The Jerusalem Times

Help the children imagine what it would have been like for first-century Christians to hear about Herod's persecution of the apostles. Use a word-processing program to type up the front page of an imaginary newspaper. Give the newspaper an interesting title like *The Jerusalem Times*. On the front page of the newspaper, write articles that record the events of Acts 12:1–4. One short article could be written about James and another about Peter. Have the children imagine what it would be like to hear that a pastor or missionary from their church had been killed or imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel. Ask them how they would feel and what they would do. After the children have answered, reveal to them what the early church did when they heard about Peter's imprisonment (Acts 12:5).

Praise and Worship

I Love You Lord

I Will Call Upon The Lord

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Four-legged Race

Have a four-legged race. Place students in groups of three. The two students on the outside represent guards, while the one in the middle represents Peter. Tie the leg of the student in the middle to one of the other student's, just as you would in a traditional three-legged race. Then tie his other leg to the student on the other side. Use a soft material for your rope, or Velcro straps that will tear off if the students fall. Set a course around the classroom. The game is designed as a fun way to encourage the students to think about what it was like for Peter to be chained to guards at all times. Ask them how they would like to be roped together all day, not just for the race.



"The Deaths of Two Men"

Materials: copies of "The Deaths of Two Men" on cardstock, crayons, scissors, glue

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Have them do the color by number with green and brown crayons. Next, cut off the bottom strip and cut the shapes apart to make tombstones. Fold at the dotted lines and glue on top of the brown burial plots.



“The Door at the Gate”

Materials: copies of “The Door at the Gate” craft pages, scissors, glue, crayons or other decorations

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft pages and have them color and decorate the pictures. Depending on the age of the students, cut the door along the top, bottom, and left edge so that it opens and closes. Have the students glue the page with Peter to the back of the page with the door. When the student opens the door, he or she will be able to see Peter.



“Servants and Enemies of God”

Materials: copies of “Servants and Enemies of God” craft pages, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page. Instruct the students to color and cut out each picture and match it to the appropriate verse.



“When an Angel of the Lord Strikes”

Materials: copies of “When an Angel of the Lord Strikes” craft pages, brads, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page, one cutout of Herod, and one cutout of Peter. Instruct the students to use brads to attach the cutouts to the appropriate picture. Herod should be able to be moved down and Peter should be able to raise up.



Mafia

Play a modified version of the group game “Mafia.” Pass out cards to all the students. Three will be marked as “Peter,” three as “guards,” and the rest as “Christians.” Announce “it’s nighttime,” which means all the students must close their eyes and look down. Ask the guards to look up so you know who they are. Have them point to one person to be “captured.” They are attempting to find Peter. Tell them to put their heads back down, then have “Peter” look up so you know who they are. They get to point to one person, and you tell them whether the person is a Christian or a guard. Announce “it’s daytime,” which means everyone looks up. The person the guards picked is “captured” and out of the game. One student then gets to accuse someone of being a guard. A vote is taken, and if a majority agrees that person is removed from the game. The goal is for the guards to capture Peter, and for the Christians to remove all the guards from the game.



Review Board Game

Play a version of “chutes and ladders,” with the boys versus girls. Draw three long, horizontal lines across a dry erase board or on butcher paper. Mark each horizontal line with five vertical tick marks per line (or more for a more complex game). Connect the bottom left side with an arrow to the left side of the middle line. Do the same with the right side of the middle line and right side of top line. Mark the start as “Prison” on the right side of the bottom line. Mark the end as “Prayer Meeting” on the top line on the left side. On the second tick of the bottom line draw a ladder all the way up to the third line. Write “Angelic Rescue” along this line. On the third tick of the top line draw a chute back to the bottom. Write along this chute “Unbelief.” On the second tick of the second line draw a ladder to the third line and label this “Believing.” On the fifth tick from the left on the second line, draw a chute back down to the first line and label it “Not praying.” Ask the girls a question from the lesson. If they get it right, have them flip a coin and move one tick for heads and two for tails. Do the same for the boys.



Who Am I?

Make 3x5 cards for famous Bible characters. Write three or four descriptions of the character on the card, starting with the most vague and ending very specific. Have one student go behind a door (set one up in the front of class using your tables or a lectern or hang a sheet) and read the first description. Let the class guess who it is before reading the second. For instance, make a card for David.

Description one: People noticed how good looking I was.

Description two: I helped my son get ready to build a very special house.

Description three: I played beautiful music for a king.

Description four: I killed a giant.

Make the final card one for Peter. Tell the students that the believers should not have had to guess who was at their door.



“Did It Work?”

After the lesson (or during), distribute Popsicle sticks with stop signs on one side and green lights on the other. Ask the students to hold up the correct side in answer to your questions:

“Did the Gospel stop spreading when Herod persecuted the Christians?”

“Did the Gospel still spread after Herod killed James?”

“Did the Gospel stop spreading when Herod put Peter in prison?”

Point out that nothing stopped the spread of the Gospel.



Peter’s Escape

Have the children run a relay race using Peter’s escape from prison as a model. To play this game, bring to class two pairs of adult sandals, two large t-shirts, and two bathrobes. The children should be divided into two teams of the same number of children. Each team will need a helper, who will play the part of the angel. When the game begins, each “angel” will direct the first child from their team to put on the shirt, sandals, and bathrobe (like Peter putting on his clothes) and then will direct the child through an obstacle course as quickly as possible (like Peter escaping from prison). When the child finishes his course, he should return to his team and take off the sandals, T-shirt, and bathrobe. The helper can then direct the next child to do the same thing. When all the children on one team finish the course, that team wins.



The Search for Peter

In this game, one child at a time pretends they are one of Herod’s guards who is looking for the apostle Peter (Acts 12:19a). Prepare for this game by cutting out a picture of the apostle Peter. Pick one child from the class and have them stand outside the room (or close their eyes) so they don’t see what is going on inside the room. The teacher should then hide the picture of Peter. After the picture has been hidden, the child can come back in the room (or open his eyes) and begin his search for the picture. The other children can yell out whether the child is getting “hot” or “cold.” The child who finds the picture can hide it for the next child.



“God Frees Peter from Prison ”

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today’s lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.

Coloring Pages

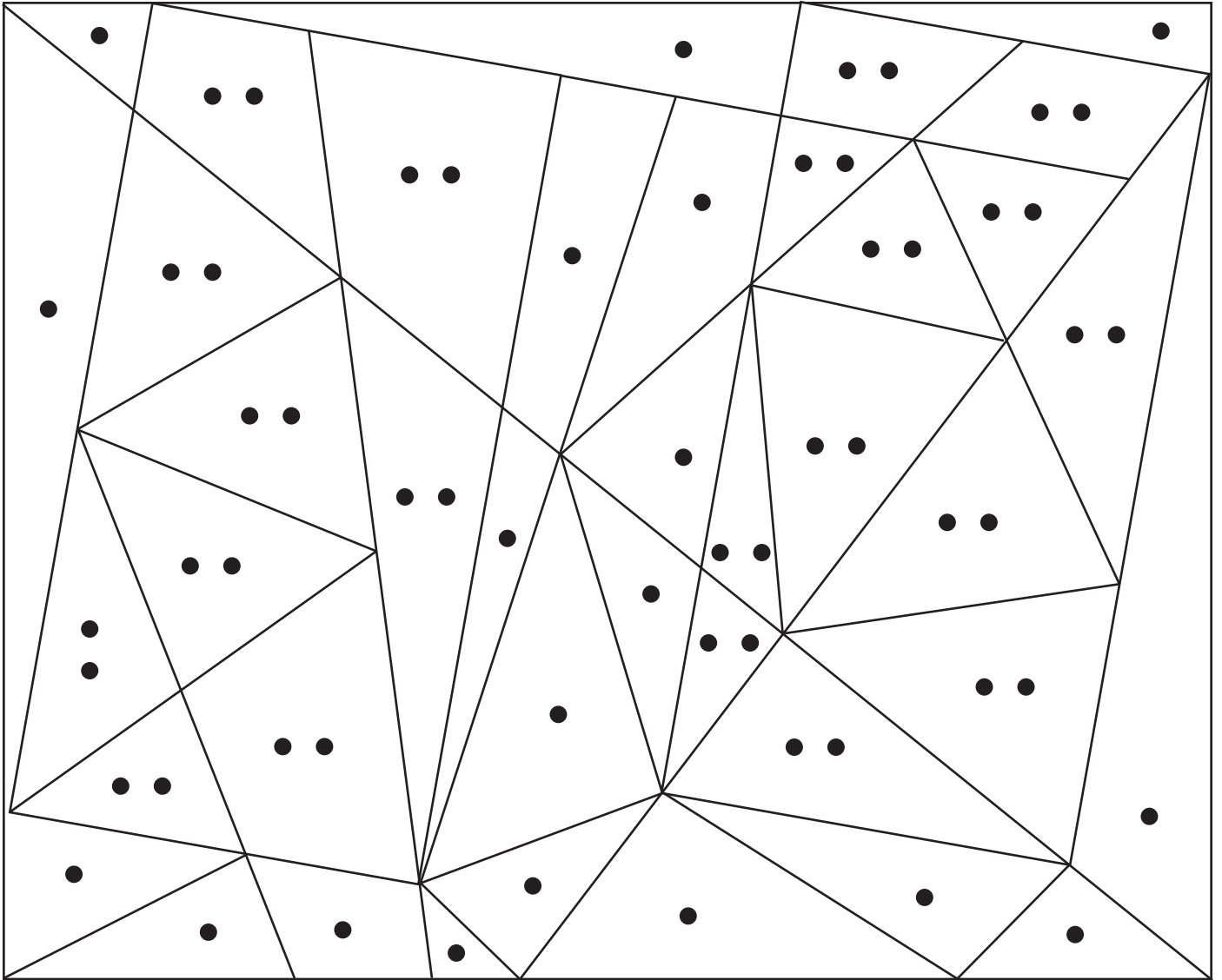
Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



MEMORY VERSE

“But the word of God grew and multiplied.” —*Acts 12:24*

The Deaths of Two Men



Color by number: ● ● =brown

● =green

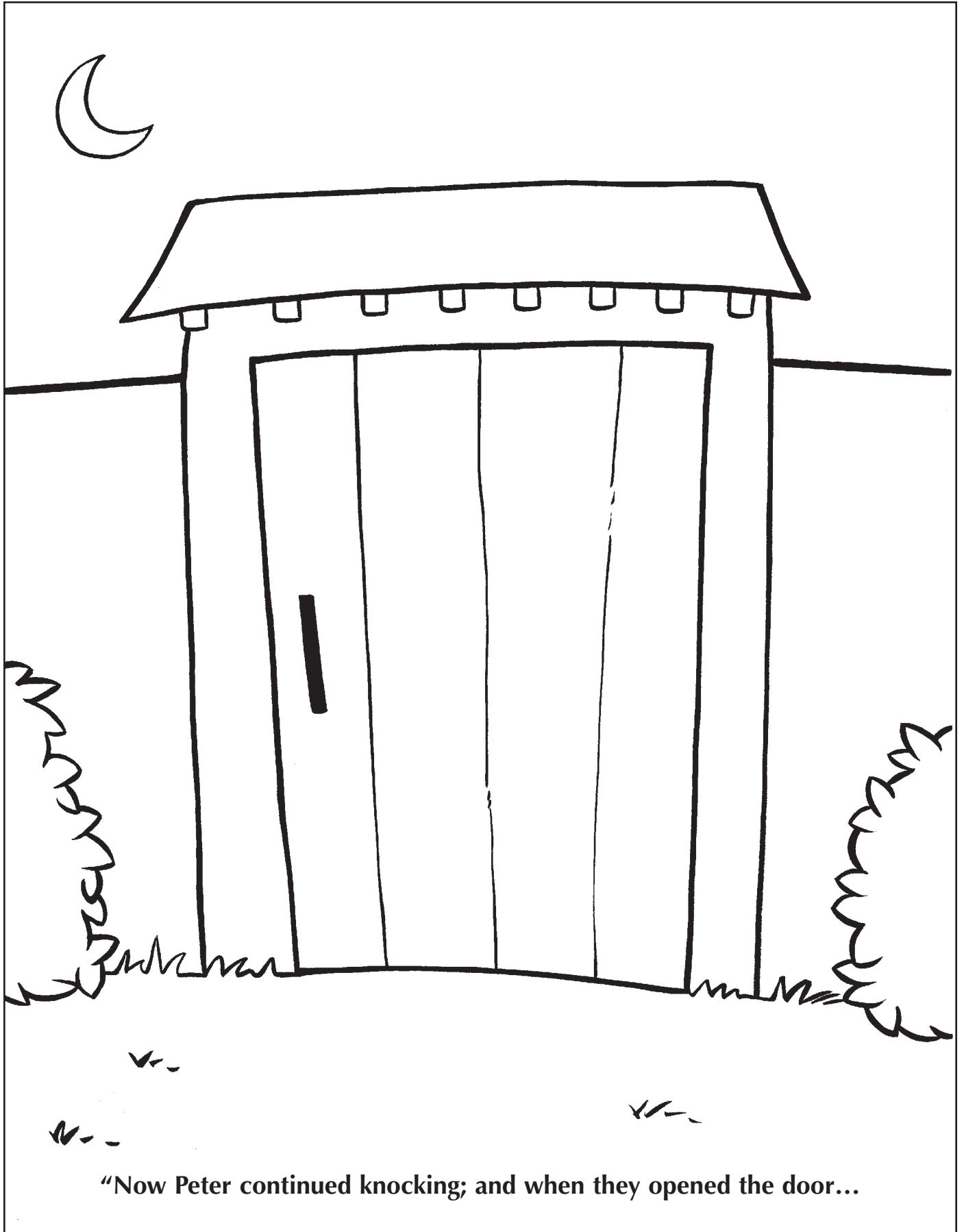
Herod

An enemy of God
Acts 12:21-33

James

A servant of God
Acts 12:1-2

The Door at the Gate



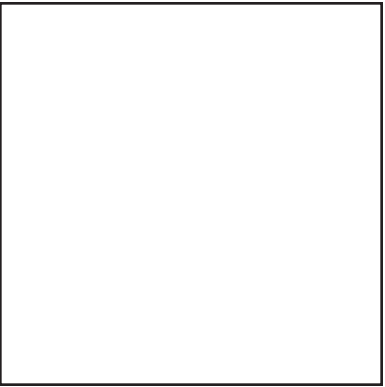
The Door at the Gate



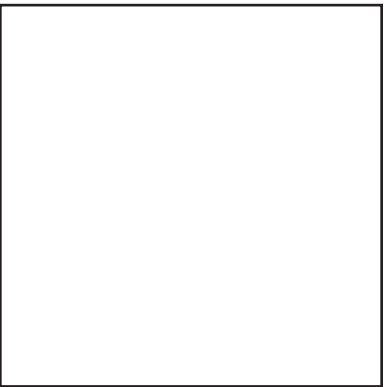
and saw him, they were
astonished." —Acts 12:16

Servants and Enemies of God

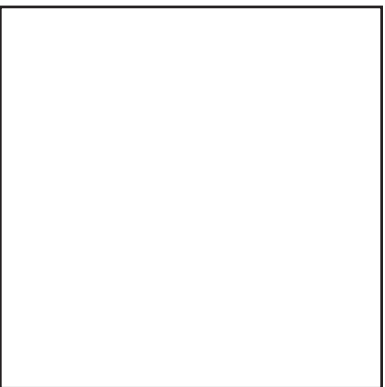
Cut out the pictures and match them to the verses in order to remind you of the events in Acts 12 regarding James and Peter, servants of God, and Herod, and enemy of God.



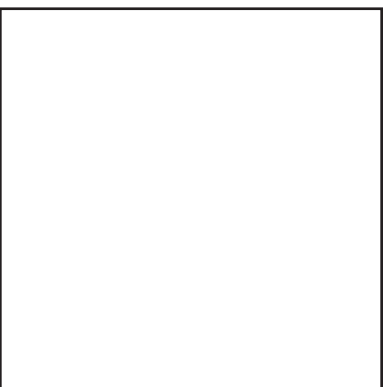
"Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with a sword."
—Acts 12:1-2



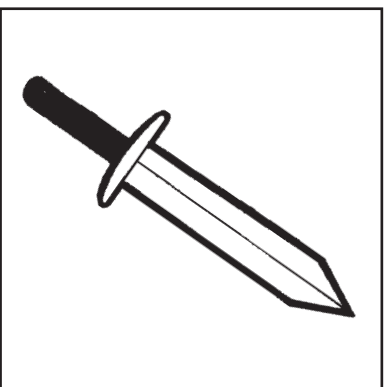
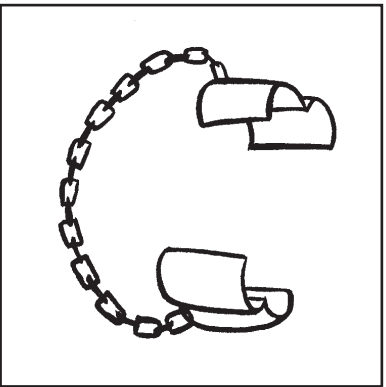
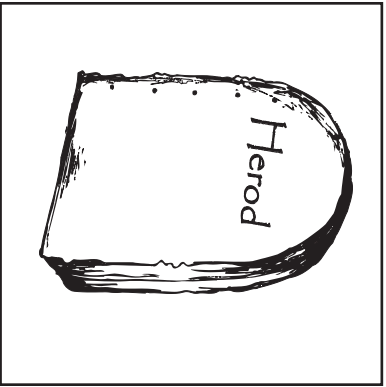
"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."
—Acts 5:12



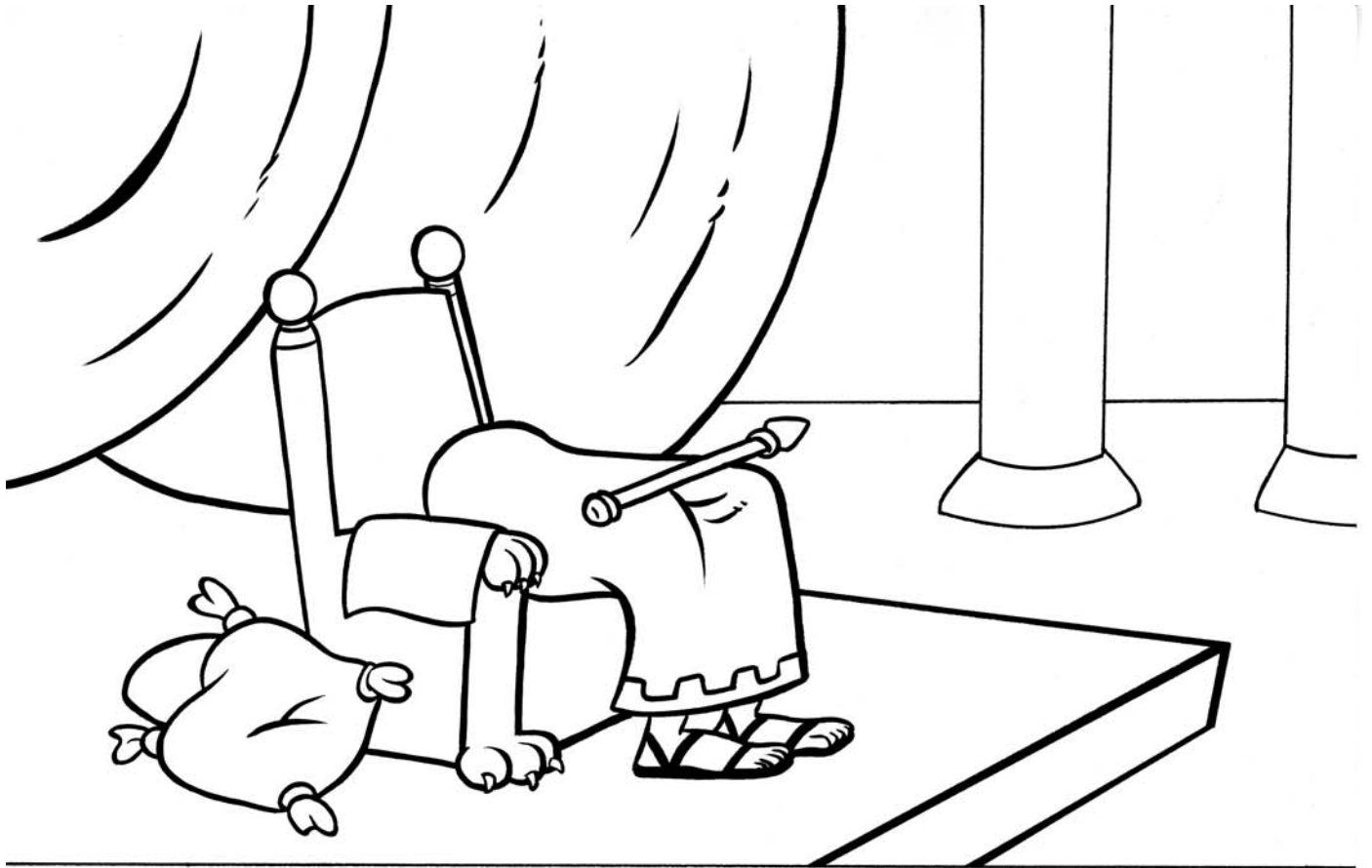
"Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison, and he struck Peter on the side and raise him up, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his chains fell off his hands."
—Acts 12:7



"So on a set day, Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God."
—Acts 12:21, 23



When an Angel of the Lord Strikes



When an Angel of the Lord Strikes



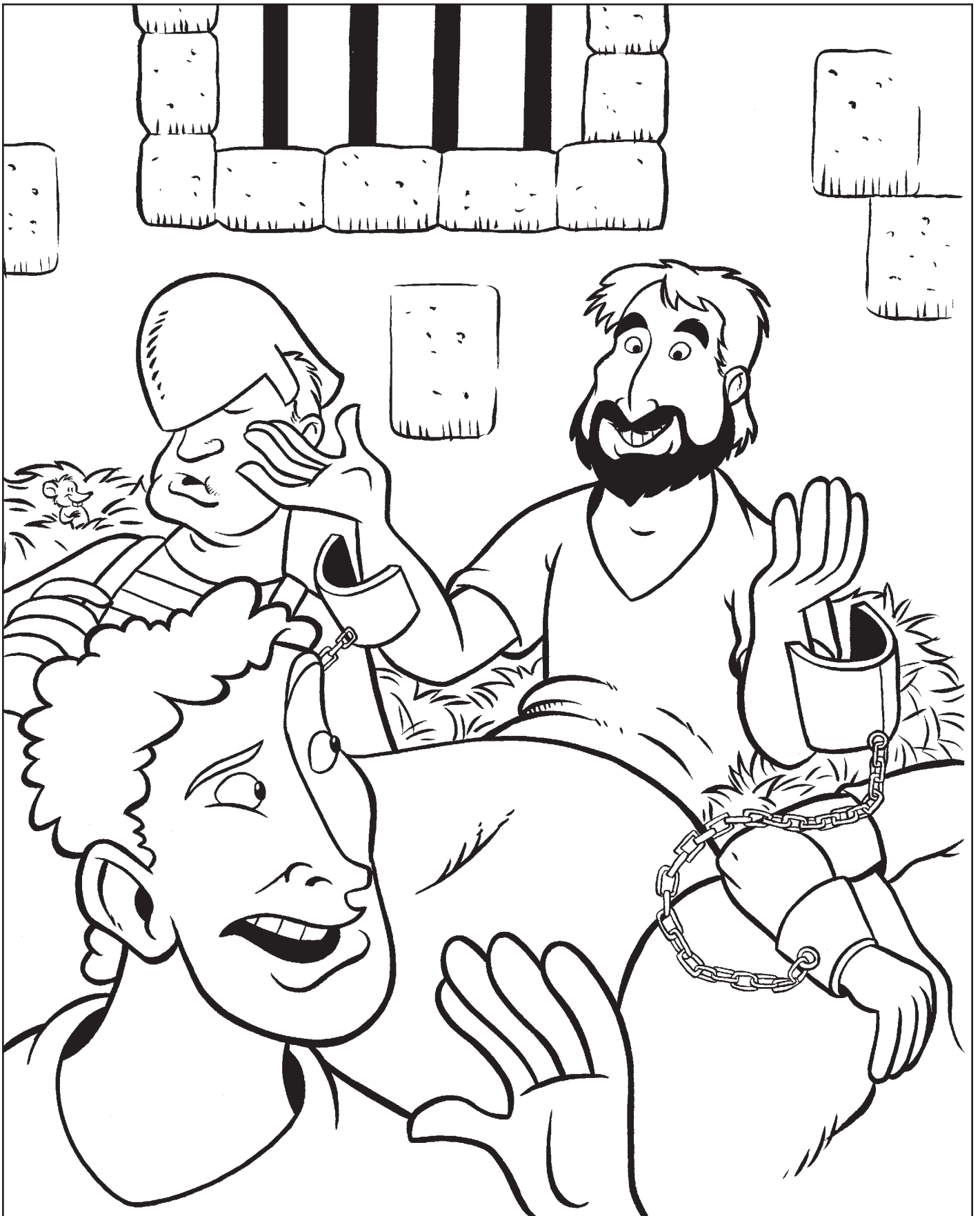
God frees Peter from prison



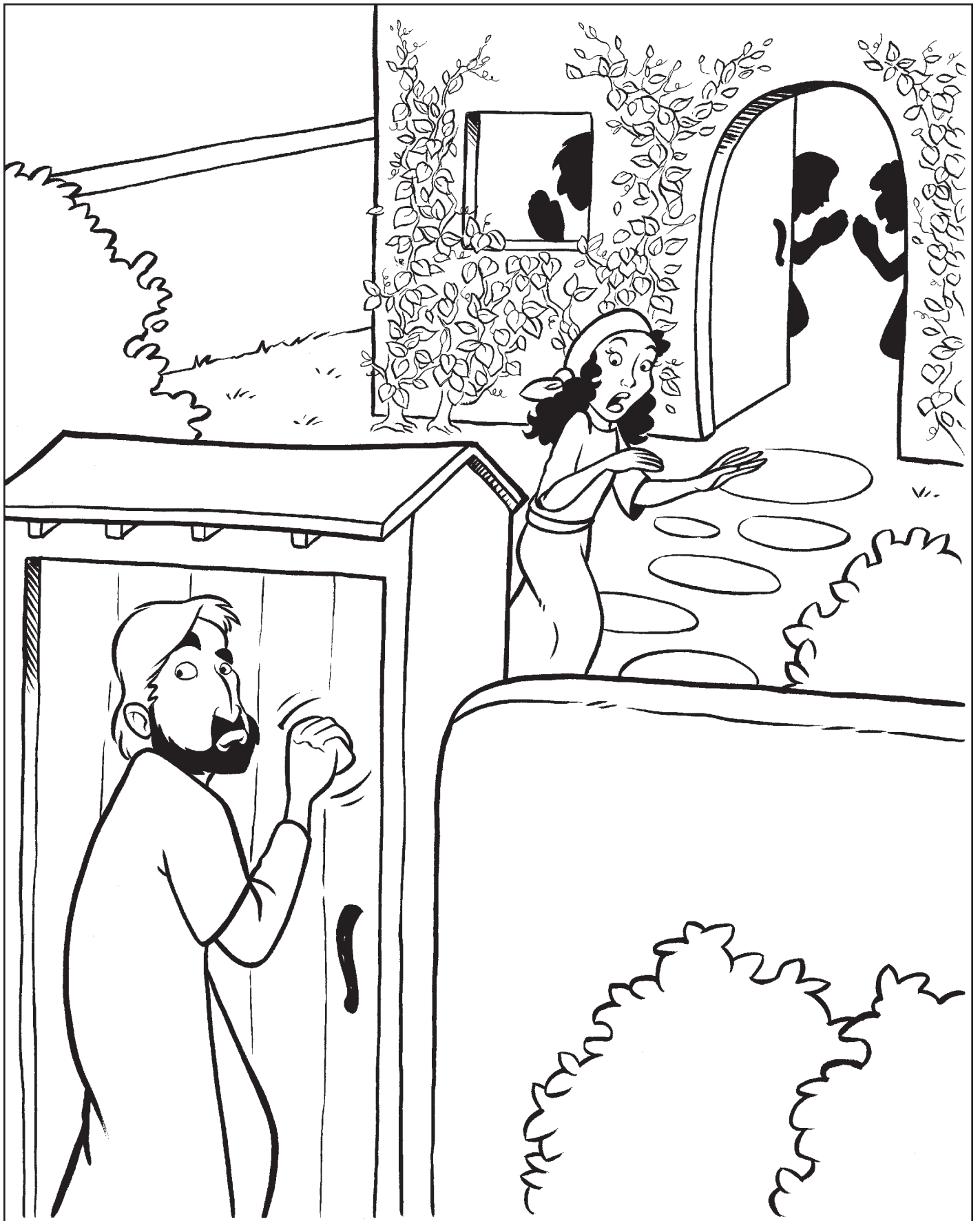
Acts 12:1-24

Name _____

1. Herod killed _____ with a sword (Acts 12:2).
2. Why did Herod put Peter in prison? _____
 - a. Peter stole a candy bar
 - b. Peter owed Herod money
 - c. Herod wanted to please the Jews
3. What did the church do while Peter was in prison? _____
4. True or False: Peter's friends helped him escape from prison.
5. Did the people of the church believe that Peter was at the door? _____
6. Herod was punished because he did not give _____ to _____ (Acts 12:23).
7. Acts 12:24 tells us that "the word of God grew and _____."



“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.” —Acts 12:7



“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.”

—Acts 12:12

