

LESSON 6: PETER ESCAPES PRISON

Leader Guide for One Room

Classroom: One Room S.S.

 Acts 12:6-17

02/21/2021

Teachers Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Acts 12:6-17
- In This Passage: Peter is in prison when God surprises him by sending an angel to lead him out of jail. Peter is so surprised at first, he thinks he's dreaming! Peter goes to a house where people are praying for him, and they get a surprising answer to their prayers!
- Bible Point: God is surprising...
- Application: ...so we watch for his surprises.
- Summary Verse: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).

Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is surprising.* Most kids love surprises (at least good ones). As you teach this lesson, help kids capture an excitement for waiting and watching to see what surprising thing God will do next in their own lives.
- Think About: Thank God for three surprising things he's done for you recently.

Dig In to Prayer

- Ask God to surprise and wow the kids in your class.

Quick Tip

- Surprise another volunteer or leader with a kind word, a small gift, a hug, or a spontaneous blessing. Let them see God surprising them through you! (Bonus: It'll help your team grow closer together.)

This Lesson at a Glance



OPENING

▲ Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids get surprised as they escape prison.

Supplies

- Bibles
- black crepe paper
- tape
- fishing line (optional)
- flashlight
- poster board
- 10 inflated balloons
- pin
- freshly popped popcorn or another fragrant snack
- alternative snack for children 4 and under
- extra adult who can briefly stop by

Easy Prep

- Section off a part of your room by taping strips of black crepe paper to the ceiling so they hang down and look like jail cell bars. If you have high ceilings and can't do that, you could tape fishing line from one wall to the other and hang the crepe paper from that. Make sure the area you section off is large enough for all the kids.
- Arrange with your extra adult what time you're planning on doing the Core Bible Discovery. That person will stand outside the room with the fragrant snack, waiting for your cue to knock on the wall. The cue will be when you gather kids' attention after the question about things that are so good, they felt like a dream. The person should remain hidden from the kids' view, but you'll want to keep the door open so the smell wafts in.
- Set the balloons in the back of the room, opposite where you'll be teaching.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids play a combination of Telephone and Pictionary.

Supplies

- washable markers
- paper (1 sheet per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Activity Description: Kids play Prison Break Tag.

Supplies

- painter's tape (optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Tape a large rectangle on the floor in your play area that's large enough for all the kids to fit inside.



DEEPER BIBLE

Kids explore how God has surprised them.

Supplies

Easy Prep

- Bibles
- glasses or sunglasses
- wax paper
- transparent tape

- Cover the lenses of the glasses or sunglasses with wax paper.



CRAFT

Kids make crepe-paper critters with a surprise inside.

Supplies

- individually wrapped candy (several pieces per child)
- crepe paper (in a variety of colors)
- clear tape
- Glue Dots
- craft supplies such as craft foam, craft felt, googly eyes, yarn, chenille wires, and pompoms

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



OBJECT LESSON

▲ Kids whisper through long tubes.

Supplies

- various types of long cardboard tubes or plastic tubes (1 for every 2-4 kids)



MUSIC VIDEO

▲ Kids sing songs of praise to God.

Supplies

- “Only a Prayer Away” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Won’t Worry ‘Bout a Thing” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Hello!” (watch or download [here](#))



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

▲ Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible point.

Supplies

- “An Angel Frees Peter” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

▲ Kids pop up to thank God for his surprises.



CORE BIBLE AT HOME

▲ Kids get surprised as they escape prison.

Supplies

- Bible
- coats

- shoes
- flashlight



TAKE-HOME

▲ Kids receive a take-home page about the lesson.

Supplies

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child)
(download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

**Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



Supplies

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have kids give a foot-five (a high-five with a foot) to two friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids give the birthday child a fist bump with fireworks. (Don't know what this means? Ask your kids!)
- Collect the offering.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we're going to learn that God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. In our Bible story, there was a surprise when someone knocked on the door. So let's think about surprising endings to knock-knock jokes.**

Share

- Tell kids a funny knock-knock joke. (Need help? Try this one: "Knock knock! *Who's there?* Etch. *Etch who?* God bless you! Do you need a tissue?" Or try searching online for funny knock-knock jokes.)
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share funny knock-knock jokes.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to tell their knock-knock jokes to the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Acts 12, and say: **Knock knock, those jokes were funny! In our Bible story, a knock on the door brought a big, fun surprise from God. Let's see what happened and how God is surprising. The Bible is special because it's full of true stories about what God has done. God can even surprise us through the Bible! Let's watch for God's surprises as we hear from the Bible today and as we talk with God.**

Pray, praising God for his surprises.



Supplies

- Bibles
- black crepe paper
- tape
- fishing line (optional)
- flashlight
- poster board
- 10 inflated balloons
- pin
- freshly popped popcorn or another fragrant snack
- alternative snack for children 4 and under
- extra adult who can briefly stop by

Easy Prep

- Section off a part of your room by taping strips of black crepe paper to the ceiling so they hang down and look like jail cell bars. If you have high ceilings and can't do that, you could tape fishing line from one wall to the other and hang the crepe paper from that. Make sure the area you section off is large enough for all the kids.
- Arrange with your extra adult what time you're planning on doing the Core Bible Discovery. That person will stand outside the room with the fragrant snack, waiting for your cue to knock on the wall. The cue will be when you gather kids' attention after the question about things that are so good, they felt like a dream. The person should remain hidden from the kids' view, but you'll want to keep the door open so the smell wafts in.
- Set the balloons in the back of the room, opposite where you'll be teaching.

Tip

- Although popcorn makes a great fragrant snack, it can be a choking hazard for kids 4 and under. Consider keeping the popcorn for the fragrance and serving it to older kids but providing fish crackers or O-shaped cereal as a preschool alternative.

Go to Jail

Say: **Today we're going to see that God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. Our Bible story is full of surprises! As we act it out, pay attention to everything that's surprising. When you hear something surprising, raise your hand and share it.** Have your adult or teen helper stand near the balloons with a pin. Whenever a child shares something surprising, your helper will pop a balloon. For example, kids might share that they're surprised when an angel shows up in jail, when the gates open by themselves, when Peter knocks at the door, or other parts of the story. It's okay if you don't end up using all 10 balloons.

Say: **Our story starts in prison.** Have kids join you in the crepe-paper jail you set up earlier. If it's cold enough that some kids brought coats, have them bring those to jail.

Say: **Some people didn't want anyone talking about Jesus. They were arresting people who talked about Jesus! That's how Peter, one of Jesus' friends, ended up in jail. Peter was sleeping in a cold jail cell without a coat or even shoes.** Have kids take off their shoes.

Say: **He was chained between two soldiers.** Have kids sit down and link arms.

Escape Jail

Say: **Then something surprising happened!** Read Acts 12:7, and turn on the flashlight. Say: **Quick! Get up!** Have kids get up quickly and unlink arms.

Read Acts 12:8. Have kids put on their shoes and coats if they have them. Older kids may need to help younger kids tie their shoes.

Read Acts 12:9-11 as an adult or teen helper leads kids out of the jail and around the room using the flashlight to represent the angel. You can pause when the gate opens all by itself and make a gate by holding

a piece of poster board in kids' way. When they approach, step aside and let all the kids through the gate.

Say: **All this walking has made me tired! Let's sit for a minute.**

Smell a Surprise

Have kids sit and discuss this question.

Ask: • **What's something you've experienced that felt like a dream because it was so good?** Share your own example first, such as a surprise trip your parents gave you or Christmas morning when you were a child.

As you start to wrap up this question, there should be some knocking at the door or wall.

Ask: • **Hmm, who do you think is knocking?**

Encourage kids to use their other senses to figure out why someone might be knocking, without going to the door and looking out.

Say: **We can't see who's knocking, but we can smell something that gives us a clue about why they're here! Let's see what happened when Peter went to a house and knocked.**

Read Acts 12:12-14.

Ask: • **What was so unbelievable about what Rhoda said?**

Say: **Rhoda didn't open the door to see Peter, but she heard his voice and believed God had answered their prayers! But the other Christians didn't believe this surprise could be real.**

Read Acts 12:15-17.

Say: **Let's invite our guest in and see if the surprise we smell is real.** Open the door or go out into the hall to invite your guest in. Distribute the popcorn and the preschool snack.

As kids eat their snack, have them discuss this question.

Ask: • **What were the most surprising things that happened to Peter and the other Christians?**

• **What were some surprising things that happened to our class?**

Say: **God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises.** His surprises in this story were hard to believe! At first, Peter thought he was just dreaming. And the Christians didn't think Peter could possibly be knocking at the door! Even when God's surprises are hard to believe, we know they're real.

Pray With Expectation

Say: **Sometimes we're like the Christians in the Bible story. We might pray for something, but we don't *really* believe God could answer. Or God answers our prayers in a way we don't expect. Let's practice praying with expectation. That means praying with belief that God will answer...maybe even in a way that's more surprising than we expected!**

Have kids form mixed-age trios and share prayer requests, then pray for each other.

Say: **You just prayed for each other, and you can trust that God is surprising. So watch for his surprises this week! He might answer your prayer in a way that's even better than you prayed for! Let's close our Bible time with a verse about that.**

Read Ephesians 3:20-21.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Not What You Pictured?

Supplies

- washable markers
- paper (1 sheet per child)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play a Game That Blends Telephone and Pictionary

Say: **Today we're discovering that God is surprising! Surprises are unexpected and—most of the time—exciting. Let's play a game that has a few surprises.**

- Form mixed-age teams of three.
- Have teams sit in rows so they can reach and "draw" on each other's backs. Give the person at the front of each row a piece of paper and a marker.
- You'll whisper a word or phrase to the people in the back of the lines, describing what to draw. They'll use a finger to draw what they heard directly on the backs of the people in front of them.
- The second person in line will then use a finger to draw what they feel being drawn on their back on the back of the next person in line.
- The person in the front of the line will then draw on their paper what they feel being drawn on their back.
- The message is passed along Telephone-style, but drawn instead of whispered. After the people drawing on the paper have finished, they can hold up their papers so everyone on their team can see the drawing and see if the outcome looks right or is surprisingly different from what the first person drew.
- Have kids swap roles so that everyone gets a turn drawing on the paper and being the one who hears what should be drawn. Give a fresh piece of paper to the child in the front of each line when kids switch roles.
- You can choose what you'll have the kids try to draw, or you can use the following ideas:
 - a snowman
 - a sailboat
 - an apple tree
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **How did the final pictures compare to your expectations?**

• **When has something in life turned out different than you expected?** Share about a surprise from your life where something didn't turn out quite as you expected, but even better. Maybe you didn't think you'd be friends with a person the first time you met but that person ended up being one of your best friends.

Say: **God is surprising, so when things don't go the way we expect, we can look for the good in it and look for God in it. We can watch for God's surprises and know he always wants what's good for us.**



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Prison Break

[10 min]

Supplies

- painter's tape (optional)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Tape a large rectangle on the floor in your play area that's large enough for all the kids to fit inside.

Tips

- Instead of using the painter's tape square, you could use the same crepe paper jail from Core Bible Discovery.
- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

Play Prison Break Tag

Say: **In today's Bible story, we read about just one of the times God has done something big and surprising. God set Peter free from prison and amazed everyone—including Peter! Let's play Prison Break Tag. There might just be some surprises in it for you!**

- Have everyone stand outside the rectangle.
- Invite a couple of willing older kids or helpers to be the Prison Guards—they'll try to tag everyone.
- Cue the game to begin. Anyone who's tagged by a Prison Guard must go to prison (the rectangle taped on the floor).
- Just when the Prison Guards have tagged and jailed almost everyone, call out "Prison break!" and allow everyone in prison to come out and play again. You can also invite two new willing people to be the Prison Guards, or allow those who haven't been tagged yet to become the new Prison Guards.
- Call out prison breaks at varied times throughout rounds of the game to catch kids off guard. You might have a prison break when only one person has been tagged and jailed, before anyone has been tagged or jailed (it'll be silly since no one's in the prison, but fun and surprising), or immediately after anyone gets put into prison so that round's guards just can't get ahead.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What happened in the game that you didn't expect?**

- **Tell about something in your life that happened when you least expected it.**

Say: **Surprises are unexpected and can be exciting, fun, and leave us wondering, "Is this real?" That's what happened for Peter when God freed him from prison. He thought he was dreaming until he realized God had really set him free. God is surprising and can amaze us the way he amazed Peter. He can do the unexpected anytime! You never know when God's surprises will come, so keep an eye out!**



What if I Haven't Felt Surprised by God?

Supplies

- Bibles
- glasses or sunglasses
- wax paper
- transparent tape

Easy Prep

- Cover the lenses of the glasses or sunglasses with wax paper.

Examine

Say: **We're learning that God is surprising. Let's look again at how surprised the people in our Bible story were when God freed Peter from jail.**

Read Acts 12:9.

Ask: • **On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being really surprised, how surprised did Peter seem at first?**

Have kids stand in a line to show their ranking, and allow kids to explain their choices. Preschoolers may not fully understand where to stand, but let them pick a spot and share anyway!

Say: **Maybe Peter was so surprised he thought it was too good to be true. Or maybe he wasn't that surprised at first because he thought it was just a dream. Let's look at the people who were praying for Peter.**

Read Acts 12:14-15.

Ask: • **On a scale of 1 to 10, how surprised did the people praying for Peter seem at first?** Again have kids stand in a line and explain their rankings.

Say: **One thing is clear: neither Peter nor the people praying for him immediately reacted the way you'd expect people to if they were surprised. God did a very surprising thing for Peter and his friends, but we're not sure if they felt surprised right away.**

What if we don't feel surprised by God? Let's dig in to that.

Blind Yourself

Say: **Let's look at some of the things that could block us from watching for God's surprises.**

Read James 4:2-3.

Ask: • **What do these verses show you about missing God's surprises?**

Say: **When we focus on ourselves instead of God, we might miss his surprises. They might be right in front of us, but we just don't see them. It's kind of like this.**

Have kids take turns wearing the covered glasses. As kids wear them, other kids can make funny faces but then stop before each person takes off the glasses.

Ask: • **How did it feel wearing the covered glasses?**

Say: **When you were wearing the glasses, you missed out on some funny stuff right in front of you. And when you focus on the wrong things, you can miss out on God's surprises right in front of you, too.**

Ask: • **What are some things that can blind us to God's surprises?**

Say: **One thing that can blind us to God's surprises is called *skepticism*. That's what it's called when we typically tend not to believe something, like when we doubt that God has done an amazing thing and look for a different explanation instead. When we don't want to believe God is surprising us, we might give the credit to something *other* than God. We might give credit to science, medicine, or "good vibes." But God is surprising. So let's take off our blinders and figure out how to watch for his surprises. Set the glasses aside.**

Dig Deeper

Read Psalm 118:24.

Say: **One way we can take off our blinders is to rejoice in every day, knowing that God made that**

day. On the count of three, let's all shout one exciting thing about today. One, two, three! Shout with the kids.

Read Isaiah 43:19.

Ask: • **What have you seen God doing in your life?**

Say: **These verses ask, "Do you not see it?" If you're not watching for what God is doing, you might miss it! So keep an eye out! Let's look at one more way to take our blinders off.**

Read Psalm 5:3.

Ask: • **What do you normally do after you pray?**

Say: **This Bible verse talks about waiting expectantly after we pray. Sometimes we pray and then get busy with other things. But God wants us to pause, wait, and go through our day expecting big things from him.**

Peel the wax paper off the glasses as you say: **God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises** when we rejoice in every day, keep our eyes open for what God is doing, and wait expectantly for him to work. Let's take off our blinders and watch for God!



CRAFT

Surprise Piñatas

[20 min]

Supplies

- individually wrapped candy (several pieces per child)
- crepe paper (in a variety of colors)
- clear tape
- Glue Dots
- craft supplies such as craft foam, craft felt, googly eyes, yarn, chenille wires, and pompoms

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Surprise Piñatas

Show kids the sample craft you made.

Ask: • **What do you think this craft is?**

Say: **There's a surprise about this craft...it's full of candy! Now you can make your own surprise piñata to give as a gift.**

Give kids each several pieces of candy, and make sure kids don't eat any of the candy. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make surprise piñatas.

- Choose a color of crepe paper.
- Start wrapping the crepe paper all around one piece of candy. (This step may be a little challenging for preschoolers, so help as needed.)
- Every few layers, add another piece of candy to wrap until you have a crepe-paper ball about the size of a tennis ball, full of candy.
- Tape the crepe paper in place.
- Decorate your crepe-paper ball using the supplies provided. You could add hair, eyes, arms, and legs to make it into a person. You could add rays to make it into a ball of sunshine. You could add shapes to make it look like a soccer ball. Be creative! (Preschoolers should be able to make this craft, but it may look a little messy. Right-size your expectations, because *they'll* still be proud of their work!)

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell something surprising about what God put inside of you!** Share your own example first, such as the ability to lead well or being a good encourager.

- Tell about someone you'd like to surprise with your piñata.

Say: God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. God can even use us to surprise others!

This week, watch for someone who seems like he or she needs a fun surprise. Give that person your craft, and let him or her know there's a special surprise inside!

Have kids take their surprise piñatas home and give them to people who need a special surprise.



OBJECT LESSON

Whisper Loud

[10 min]

Supplies

- various types of long cardboard tubes or plastic tubes (1 for every 2-4 kids)

Tip

- A variety of tubes will work for this experience. We used cardboard gift wrapping tubes, plastic tablecloth cardboard tubes, a vacuum cleaner hose, and a dryer hose.

Whisper and Listen Through Tubes

Whisper softly: **God is surprising!** Now speak in a regular voice: **Did you hear me? Whispers are usually really quiet. Hold up one of the tubes. But when we use tubes, we can make a whisper loud for someone else to hear.**

- Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a tube. If you don't have enough tubes, you could give one tube to a group of four kids and they could take turns.
- Have one child be the "Listener" and put his or her ear up to one end of the tube.
- Designate the other partner the "Whisperer." He or she will whisper "God is surprising" and other messages about God through the other end of the tube.
- Invite the Listeners to whisper messages about God back to their friends.
- Have kids explore and play with different tubes. As they play, remind kids to whisper so they don't hurt their friends' ears!

Talk About It

Ask: • **What's something you heard through the tube that was surprising?**

• **What was surprising about how the tubes sent sound so far?**

Say: **Surprise! Our whispers sounded really loud through the tubes. In our Bible story, Peter's friends were so surprised when they heard him knocking on the door. God had helped him! God is surprising. So we watch—and listen—for his surprises.**



MUSIC VIDEO

Only a Prayer Away

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Only a Prayer Away” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Won’t Worry ‘Bout a Thing” (watch or download [here](#))
- “Hello!” (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don’t have internet in your classroom? That’s okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter’s DVD [here](#).

Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



Supplies

- “An Angel Frees Peter” teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the “download” button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch “An Angel Frees Peter”

Say: **We're learning that God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. And boy, did he have a lot of surprises for Peter! Let's watch what happened to Peter.**

Watch “An Angel Frees Peter.”

Ask: • **What was the most surprising part of this Bible story?**

- **Why do you think the people praying were surprised when God answered their prayers?**
- **What's something you'd be surprised to see God do in your life?**

Say: **God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. We can pray like the church prayed for Peter and wait to see how he answers our prayers. And he might even surprise us like he surprised Peter and do something we never would've expected!**



PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Preschool Puppet Skit

[10 min]

Not available for this age level.



Popcorn Prayers

Pray in a Surprising Way

Say: God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. Think of something surprising you can thank God for. We'll thank him in a surprising way! Let's do a popcorn prayer. Pause for kids to think.

- Have kids crouch down.
- Begin the prayer by praying: **Thank you, God, for...**
- Kids can randomly pop up and shout their thanks.
- Kids can crouch back down and pop up again as many times as they want.

Wrap Up

Pray: God, thank you that you're surprising! Help us pay attention and watch for your surprises.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



Supplies

- Bible
- coats
- shoes
- flashlight

Tips

- This Bible Experience is specifically designed for video calls, pre-recorded videos, or parent-led lessons.
- If you're leading this as a video, tell families to pause when you ask questions so they can discuss them. Tell families as you start the video what supplies they'll need so they can gather them before they begin.
- For additional activities that adapt easily to an at-home setting, click "view" to preview the content of each activity block and choose only those that include a ▲ symbol in the highlighted summary description:
 - Opening
 - Music Video
 - Talk About Video
 - Object Lesson
 - Life Application Wrap-Up
 - Take-Home page (for families to do at home)

Go to Jail

Say: **Today we're going to see that God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises. Our Bible story is full of surprises! As we act it out, pay attention to everything that's surprising. When you hear something surprising, clap loudly or gasp suddenly, to surprise everyone else!**

Say: **Our story starts in prison.** Have families bring their coats and shoes to a corner of the room, and imagine that corner is jail.

Say: **Some people didn't want anyone talking about Jesus. They were arresting people who talked about Jesus! That's how Peter, one of Jesus' friends, ended up in jail. Peter was sleeping in a cold jail cell without a coat or even shoes.** Make sure no one is wearing their coats or shoes.

Say: **He was chained between two soldiers.** Have families sit down and link arms.

Escape Jail

Say: **Then something surprising happened!** Read Acts 12:7, and turn on the flashlight. Shine it on your face. Say: **Quick! Get up!** Have everyone get up quickly and unlink arms.

Read Acts 12:8. Have everyone put on their shoes and coats.

Read Acts 12:9-11. Ask the oldest person in the room to use a flashlight and lead their families out of the jail and around the room. After a little bit, say: **Look! The gate just opened for you! Step right through!** Allow a little more time for walking.

Say: **Let's sit for a minute.**

Get a Surprise Visitor

Have families sit and discuss this question.

Ask: • **What's something you've experienced that felt like a dream because it was so good?** Share your own example first, such as a surprise trip your parents gave you or Christmas morning when you were a child.

As families discuss this question, knock on a wall or table, but try not to let anyone see that you're knocking.

Ask: • **Hmm, who do you think is knocking?**

Encourage everyone to make guesses.

Say: **We can't see who's knocking! Let's see what happened when Peter went to a house and knocked.**

Read Acts 12:12-14.

Ask: • **What was so unbelievable about what Rhoda said?**

Say: **Rhoda didn't open the door to see Peter, but she heard his voice and believed God had answered their prayers! But the other Christians didn't believe this surprise could be real.**

Read Acts 12:15-17.

Say: **Let's invite our guest in and see who it is.** Pretend to open a door, and warmly welcome "Peter" in. Encourage everyone to welcome Peter along with you.

Ask: • **What were the most surprising things that happened to Peter and the other Christians?**

• **What were some surprising things that happened to our class?**

Say: **God is surprising, so we watch for his surprises.** His surprises in this story were hard to believe! At first, Peter thought he was just dreaming. And the Christians didn't think Peter could possibly be knocking at the door! Even when God's surprises are hard to believe, we know they're real.

Pray With Expectation

Say: **Sometimes we're like the Christians in the Bible story. We might pray for something, but we don't *really* believe God could answer. Or God answers our prayers in a way we don't expect. Let's practice praying with expectation. That means praying with belief that God will answer...maybe even in a way that's more surprising than we expected!**

Have families share prayer requests, then pray for each other.

Say: **You just prayed for each other, and you can trust that God is surprising. So watch for his surprises this week! He might answer your prayer in a way that's even better than you prayed for! Let's close our Bible time with a verse about that.**

Read Ephesians 3:20-21.

**Supplies**

- this week's "Dig In @ Home" handout (1 per child) (download [here](#))

Easy Prep

- Add your church announcements to the "Dig In @ Home" handout.

Distribute a copy of the "Dig In @ Home" handout to kids as they leave, or email it to parents during the week.