LESSON 11

PETER IN PRISON



Aim: **To teach the children that the Lord protected and cared for Peter in prison.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 12:1-11**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 32:7**
You are my hiding-place;
you will protect me
from trouble ...

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Have you ever noticed what a mother hen does with her chicks when she sees a big bird of prey, like a hawk, flying overhead? She spreads out her wings and gathers her chicks underneath them. In this way, she protects and hides them from danger.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Jesus' first disciples, who now were the leaders of the early church, faced many dangers and persecution from the authorities. Some were put to death because of their faith (Acts 12:1-2).
2. Peter was one of those who were arrested. He was put in prison and guarded very carefully by four soldiers. The guards were changed regularly, so that they would not become tired and could always watch Peter closely (12:3-4).
3. The Christians in Jerusalem prayed continually for Peter (12:5).
4. The night before Peter was to go to court he slept well, even though he was chained to his guards (12:6). He must have known that he was safe in God's hands, if he could sleep under those circumstances!
5. Suddenly an angel came into the prison. He had to shake Peter to wake him up (12:7a). **Show Picture 11.**
6. The angel gave Peter instructions. **Explain what they were (12:7b-8).** Peter thought he was still dreaming, that he was having another vision (12:9).
7. But it was really happening. The angel led Peter out of prison, past all the guards and through all the different gates. When they were safely among the city streets, the angel left Peter just as suddenly as he had appeared (12:10).
8. Only then did Peter realise that God had rescued him with a miracle (12:11).

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Our Response to the Story

Refer to the introductory story again. As a mother hen protects her chicks, so God cares for and protects his children.

During the shelling of her hometown a woman named Mary was alone with her five young children. Her husband was away and the children were very frightened. As Mary gathered the children around her she thought, "**Now we will see the proof that God cares for us.**" God's promises are not just words. He kept Mary and her children safe.

We have to remember, however, that God's children are not automatically protected against all bad things like an umbrella protects a person against the sun or rain. God saved Peter from prison that time, but later in his life Peter was put to death for his faith. Like Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before he died, we can only pray for God's will to be done.

Instil the Memory Verse

Today's verse says what Peter learnt about God.



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