LESSON 12

POWER THROUGH PRAYER



Aim: **To teach the children the power of prayer.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 12:12–18**

Memory Verse: **1 John 3:22**
[We] receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Tell the class how a prayer of yours was answered. Perhaps the answer was not exactly what you had prayed for. God often answers our prayers in a different way from what we expected, but it still is an answer. Whether God replied "Yes" or "No" or "Later", God wills what is best for us.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. **Show Picture 11. Ask questions that refer to it. For example:** Who is the man between the soldiers? What is the angel telling him to do?
   With these kinds of questions you can review the memory verse of Lesson 11, Psalm 32:7.
2. When the angel left Peter on the city street and he realised that God had freed him from prison, he went to a house where he knew the Christians met regularly. They were praying when he knocked on the door (12:12–13).
3. Rhoda, who came to answer the door, was so happy to hear Peter's voice that she forgot to let him in. She ran off to tell the others that he was safe and free (12:14)!
4. Most of the Christians gathered there did not believe Rhoda's good news, even though Peter's release from prison was exactly what they had been praying for (12:15). Peter had to keep on knocking for some time before they came to open the door (12:16).
   Show Picture 12. Point out the surprise on their faces. Do you see the man with the stick in his hand? He probably thought it could not be Peter at the door, but someone who wanted to play a trick on them.
5. Peter told the congregation what had happened and asked them to tell the other apostles that he was safe. Then he left the house. If he had stayed, he might have put everybody there in danger, as the authorities would come looking for him (12:17).

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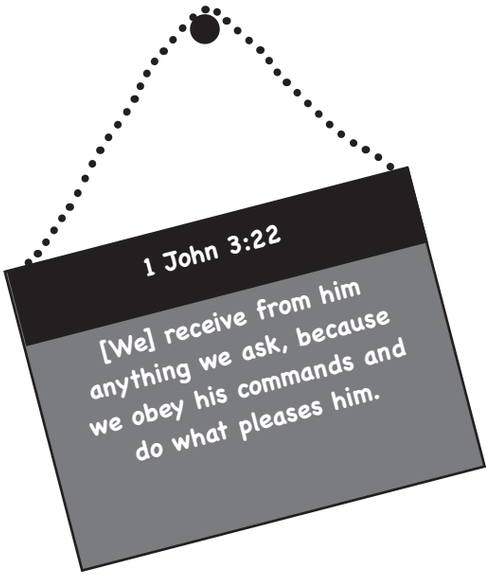
Our Response to the Story

Our prayers are answered if we pray according to God's will. Therefore, the power of prayer depends on our obeying and following Jesus. Sometimes the answer is greater than we dared to expect, as was the case with those Christians who prayed for Peter.

What would you like to pray for? Possible answer: the healing of a sick relative.

Include their requests in your closing prayer and encourage the children to go on praying for these things at home in the coming week.

Instil the Memory Verse



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