



KK '18 DQT Devo: Monday/Thursday

"From Preaching to Prison"

Lesson Passages: Acts 12:1-19



Lesson Focus: The children will learn that great difficulty can be expected when obeying and serving Jesus. But we must not be discouraged for in the greatest of troubles God continues to work.

Helping Study Passages: Acts 2:40-41; 3:1-10; 4:1-4; 9:36-43

Lesson Intro: Anybody like jellybeans? Ok we are going to play a minute to win it game and if you get it done your prize will be jellybeans. Play the two balloon game. If they are able to keep the balloons off the floor without holding on to them they win. Then, provide a twist in the plot. They have been beanboozled. You may or may not have picked out the jellybeans. They may be excited or disappointed. It all seemed well until the prize or situation was not what you expected. You were able to keep the balloons off the floor to win. You were expecting a prize. Then, you were beanboozled. How did that make you feel? Sometimes that happens in life does it not? Sometimes in a tournament you and your team make all the right plays in one game. Then the very next game everything seems to change and you cannot make any sort of play either to score or defend. Sometimes situations turn from good to hard. In our story today we will see how that happened to Peter.

Story Outline

- I. Peter Preaching Powerfully. 2:40-41; 4:1-4
- II. Impressive Power of God in Peter. 3:1-10; 9:36
- III. The Possibility of Death. 12:1-3
- IV. Peter the Prisoner. 12:4-6
- V. Prison Break. 12:7-11
- VI. The People Praying. 12:12-19

Story Overview

The Book of Acts depicts Peter as being used in a mighty way to preach Jesus. In his first message there were three thousand people saved. In his next message over five thousand people believed. Not only that but through the power of God he performed many amazing miracles. A person who had never walked was given the ability to walk again. A woman that died was brought back by the power of God through Peter. But it is in the process of God using Peter in a mighty way that he is arrested by Herod. Another disciple is killed and it seems Peter may be next. He is put in prison to await his fate. When an amazing thing happened and God freed Peter from prison to continue on preaching the good news of Jesus. It was such an unbelievable occurrence that even those praying for him could not believe it.

Breaking down the Story

- **Story Introduction:** Jesus had already gone up to heaven. It was now the time for the good news of Jesus and all that He had done to spread. Jesus had tasked the disciples with the work of preaching the message of Jesus. The disciples had continued in prayer until the power of God fell upon them to preach the Gospel. Peter quickly became one of the prominent disciples to begin in this work. Once Peter had begun to preach the good news of Jesus the Bible says that thousands of people began to know Jesus as Savior. After Peter preached on the special celebration of the Jews, Pentecost, the Bible says that three thousand people were added. Then Peter and John would heal a paralyzed man who had never walked before. Peter took the opportunity when all the people responded in amazement to preach Jesus to them. Over five thousand people believed in Jesus after that. Many other occasions Peter had the opportunity to preach the Gospel and perform great miracles. In Joppa through the power of God he brought a woman named Tabitha or Dorcas back from the dead. After that many people believed in Joppa as well.
- **Lead roles:** The lead roles in this story are Peter and Herod. Herod as the king used his power to harm believers in Jesus. As Peter continued to preach and be used of God to do great things suddenly there was an abrupt disruption. James was taken by Herod and killed in order to please the Jews who did not like the preaching of Jesus. Once Herod saw the people liked that he arrested Peter to let the people choose what to do to him. Peter was put in prison where he was guarded by sixteen soldiers. He was chained and set between two soldiers while the others guarded the doors. Peter thinking he was still asleep and seeing a vision followed an angel who set him free and walked him out to the door. Once at the door he realized it was no dream and he had been set free. He then went to visit those from the church who were praying for him.
- **Supporting Cast:** The supporting cast of this story are the church, the angel, and Rhoda. The church did the best thing they could do in a life threatening situation, prayed. An angel was sent by God to free Peter from his chains and lead him out of the prison. Rhoda was the girl who answered the door when Peter was free. The situation was so unbelievable and she was so happy she forgot to open the door for Peter. She told the church people at her house but they could not believe it.
- **Climax of the Story:** After the death of James and the imprisonment of Peter all seemed lost. The amazing things that God had been doing through Peter seemed to be coming to an end as the possibility of death was eminent. The church prayed asking for his deliverance which seemed improbable. But God in the middle of an impossible and hopeless situation still worked. He sent an angel that not only freed Peter from prison but escorted him out from the presence of sixteen soldiers.
- **Conclusion of the Story:** God had been using Peter in a great manner. He was used both to preach and show the power of God. But suddenly it seemed to all come to an end. Peter was arrested and most likely on his way to be sentenced to death as well. But God was not done working. Even though it had all taken a turn for the worst God still had plans for Peter. God intervened with His power and allowed Peter to escape. God did something Peter did not expect and the church could not believe.

Lesson Conclusion: We see in this story that God had done amazing things with Peter when they were suddenly interrupted by a horrible situation. Joseph had two dreams that showed him a bit of what God had prepared for him when suddenly a horrible event occurred. Both these stories teach that difficulty can be expected when one follows the dreams God has given. But in both these stories the difficulty was not the end of the story.

Lesson Application: God has plans and purposes for every one of our lives. But that does not mean that it will all be easy. It may be that we too may have to endure hardship in our lives. Maybe to the extent of Peter where all hope seems lost. But never forget that God is in control and still at work. That no matter what difficulty comes God can piece it all together to do great things in our lives. Dream big!