

**OPENING**: We have been learning that after Jesus died and came back to life, He went to Heaven to be with God. Even though we cannot see Him, Jesus is always with us. Shout this with me:  
“1,2,3,4,5,6,7 – Jesus, Jesus is in Heaven!”   
“ABCDEFG – Jesus, Jesus is with me!”

**BIBLE VERSE/SONG:**  *Sing* ***“The B-I-B-L-E”***

*The B-I-B-L-E   
Yes, that’s the book for me!  
I stand alone on the Word of God,  
The B-I-B-L-E*

*(Open Bible to Psalm 4:3)*  “Here is my Bible. I will open it wide, to read about Jesus from the words inside.” We have been learning that after Jesus came back to life, He went up to Heaven to be with God, but He promises to always be with us – even though we cannot see Him. Our new verse is from the Book of Psalms. Psalm 4 verse 3 says this: “The Lord will hear when I call to Him.” Repeat the verse after me: The Lord will hear/ when I call to Him/ Psalm 4/ verse 3. Now let’s sing the verse to help us remember it. *(Sing to the tune of “Wheels on the Bus”* **Clap** *with the beat.)*The **Lord** will **hear** when I **call** to **Him**, **call** to **Him, call** to **Him.**The **Lord** will **hear** when I **call** to **Him**. **Psalm** **4** Verse **3**

**BIBLE STORY REVIEW:** Last time we learned about a man named Saul who loved God, but Saul did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son. Saul would find people who loved Jesus and put them in jail! One day when Saul was on his way to the city called Damascus to have believers there thrown in jail, Jesus stopped him. Who remembers how Jesus stopped Saul? *(bright light blinded him)* Jesus spoke to Saul and asked Saul why he was being mean to people who loved Jesus. After Saul was blind for three days, Jesus made him see again and changed Saul’s heart. Now Saul believed in Jesus! Jesus changed Saul’s name to \_\_\_\_ *(Paul)*. Paul spent the rest of his life telling people about Jesus’ love. We learned that **We can tell others about Jesus’ love**, just like Paul did!

**BIBLE STORY:** It is time to hear our Bible story. Listen carefully because when the story is finished, I will ask you some questions. Before we begin our story, let’s pray: Our hands we fold, our heads we bow, so we can talk to God right now.

Dear God, thank You for Your true words in the Bible. Help us to listen carefully so we can learn about You today. Amen.

*Open Bible to Acts 12:1-17 and show children. Keep it open while telling the story so children understand this story comes from the Bible.*

*Show* ***corresponding pictures*** *when telling the story.*

Our story today is about one of Jesus’ disciple friends named Peter. Say that with me: Peter. *(Show picture of Peter)* Peter loved Jesus very much, and Peter traveled all over teaching everyone he met about Jesus.

The Bible says there was a mean king, King Herod, who didn’t want anyone teaching the people about Jesus. Show me your “mean king” faces. King Herod had Peter arrested and put in prison with 16 soldiers guarding him! *(Show picture of Peter in jail)* They put chains on Peter’s wrists. Oh dear! How do you think Peter felt?

The Bible says that when Peter’s friends heard about Peter, they gathered together at a house and prayed and prayed and prayed for Peter all through the night. *(Show picture of friends praying)* Do you think God heard their prayers? God was listening. That night Peter was sleeping between two guards. Suddenly a light shone in Peter’s jail cell and an angel appeared. *(Show picture of angel).* The angel woke Peter and said, “Quick, get up!” The chains fell off of Peter’s wrists! The angel said, “Put on your coat and sandals, and follow me!” Peter did as the angel said and followed him out of the jail cell. Peter thought he must be dreaming, but he wasn’t!

The angel and Peter walked right past all the guards and when they came to the gate, it opened all by itself! The angel and Peter walked through the gate and down the street. Peter was free! Suddenly, the angel disappeared.

Peter went straight to the house where his friends were still praying. Peter knocked on the door and the servant girl came to answer it. When she heard Peter’s voice, she got so excited that she forgot to open the door but instead ran and told the others, “Peter is at the door!”

*(Show picture of Peter and friends)* They quickly let Peter in, and Peter told them all about how God had heard their prayers and how God had brought Peter out of prison.

God hears *us* when *we* pray, too, just like God heard Peter’s friends. **God wants us to pray about everything.**

**QUESTIONS: Who did King Herod have put in jail?** *Peter, people who taught about Jesus*

**Why did King Herod put Peter in jail?** *He didn’t want Peter to tell people about Jesus*

**What did Peter’s friends do when they found out what happened to Peter?** *They prayed for Peter*

**While the friends were praying, who sent an angel to help Peter get free?** *God/Jesus*

**Who hears us whenever we pray?** *God/Jesus*

**KEY CONCEPT:** **God wants us to pray together** *(fold hands)* **about everything** *(spread arms wide). Repeat several times with motions, beginning with a whisper and getting a little louder each time, or repeat with different voices.*

**PRAYER ACTIVITY:** *Take some time to pray together. The following are some questions you may ask your child, and then pray with him/her.*

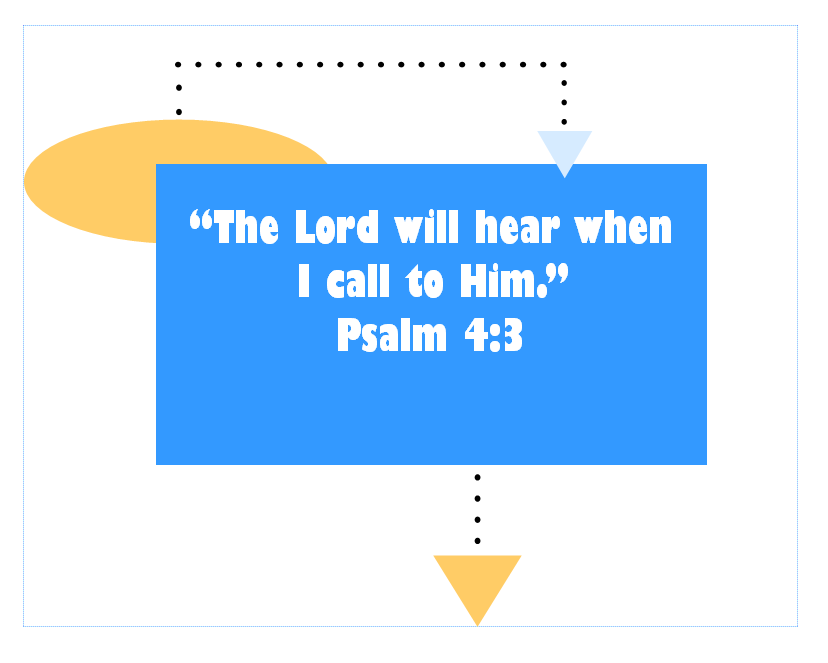
What are some things you love? Let’s pray and thank God for those things.

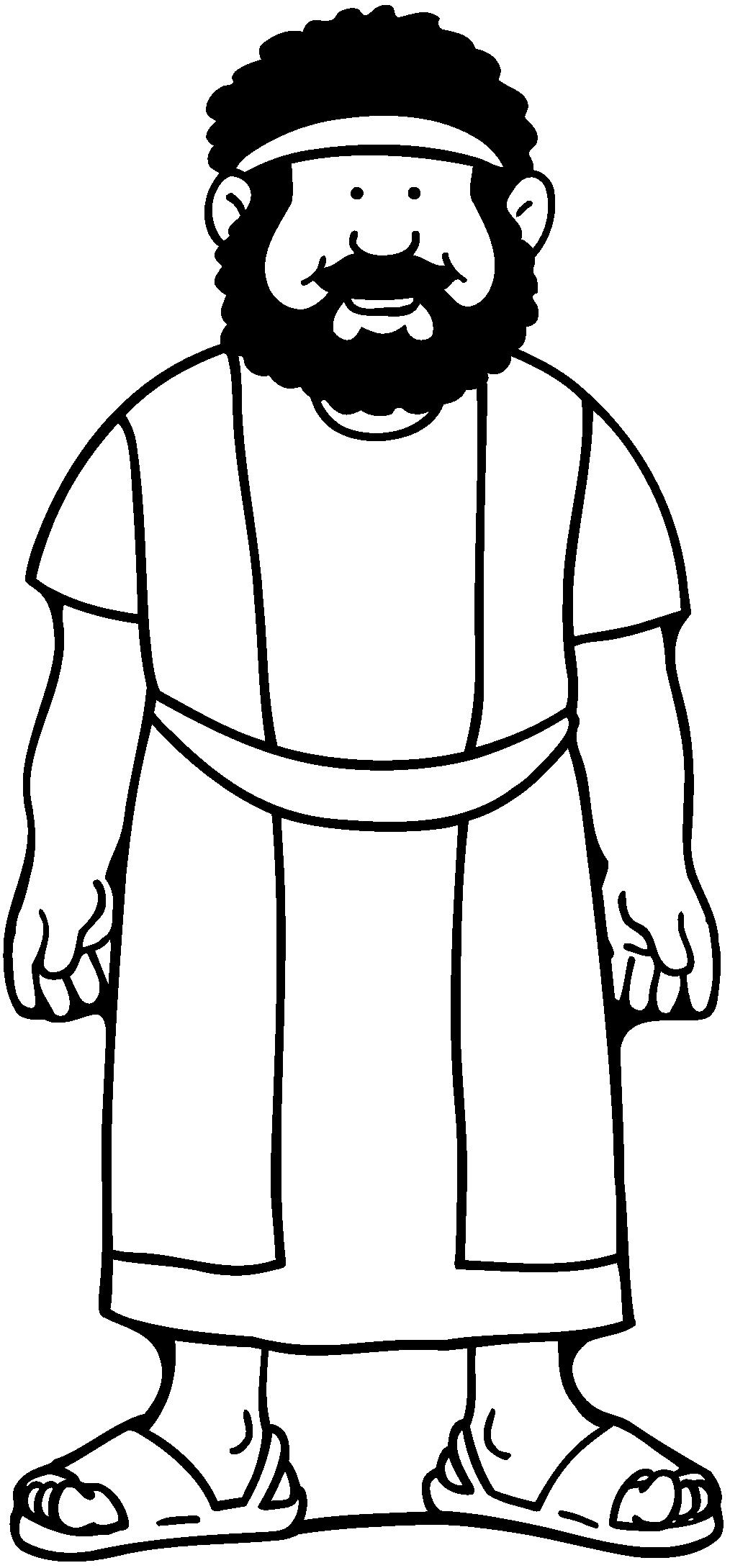
Who are some people we can pray for? Why? Let’s pray for them now.

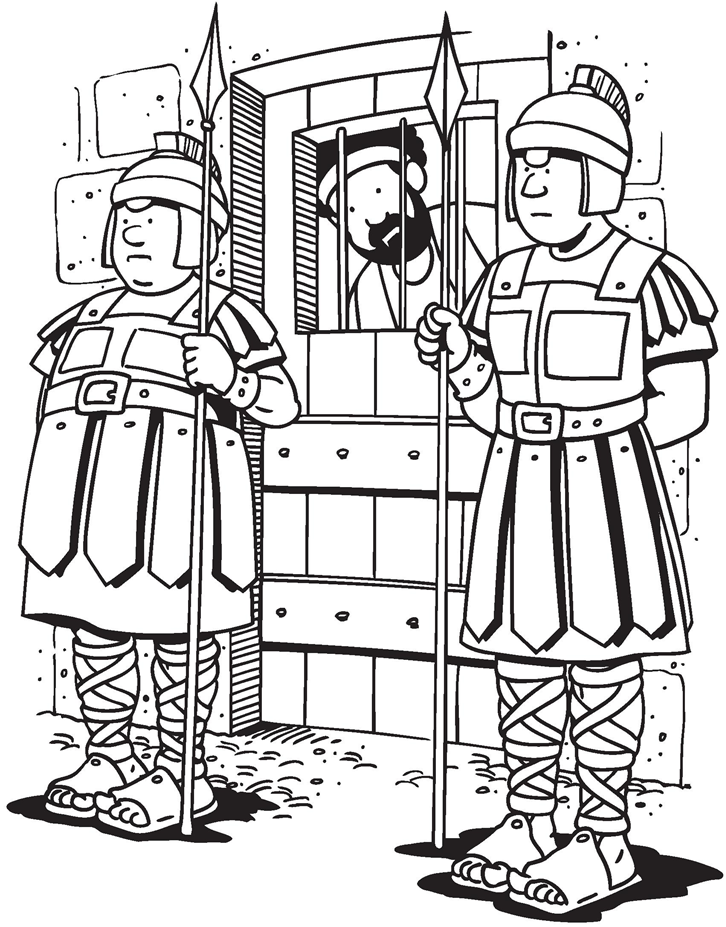
What are some things you need help with? Let’s ask God to help you.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** We know the Lord hears when we call to Him. You can repeat these words to Jesus:  **Dear Jesus,/ I am so glad/ that You are always with me/ and that You hear me/ when I pray./ Please help me/ to be like Peter’s friends/ and to pray about *everything*./ Amen.**

**READ**: *To reinforce today’s lesson, read the story of Peter’s Escape (Acts 12:1-17) from a children’s Bible.*

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