

Theme God hears and answers our prayers

Games:

Jailer's keys Everyone sits in a circle facing inwards. One child is wearing a blindfold and sitting on a chair in the middle of the circle and under the chair are a bunch of keys. Everyone has to be silent and then a leader chooses one child from the circle, who will be the thief, to crawl quietly up to the jailer and try to get the keys from underneath the chair without the jailer noticing. The jailer has to point to the direction he/she feels the sound is coming from; if the thief succeeds then they become the jailer; if the jailer wins then a new thief is chosen.

Traffic lights The leader calls out the commands and the children have to change according to the action required.

- Green – the children run around in different directions
- Amber – jump up and down on the spot
- Red – freeze on the spot and don't move
- Blue – run around making police car noises

Jailer Tag A simple tag game with the catcher being the 'jailer'. Caught children have to stand with one arm outstretched against the wall. They are now 'chained' to the wall (prison) and can only be freed if another child runs under their arm.

Introduction

Ask the children if they have ever been punished unfairly, how would it make them feel if they were put into prison because they came to Kingsquad or told people about Jesus? That is how Peter felt in our story this week.

Story

Tell the story of Peter's release from Acts 12 v 6 – 11. Use the resources to help tell the story; you may want to get the children to perform the story whilst you read it.

Application

In this story God answers 'yes' to Peter's prayer, but sometimes some Christians don't believe that God will answer the prayer even though the Bible says He does. Peter believed that God would answer his prayer and God did. We need to trust that God knows what is best for us and that he will answer our prayers in the best way for us. You can think of the way God answers prayer as traffic lights;

- Red – stop – God sometimes says 'No'
- Amber – Wait – God sometimes says 'Not yet'
- Green – Go – God sometimes says 'Yes'

Memory Verse

'When they call on me, I will answer them' Psalm 91 v 15. . Prepare strips with one word of the verse on each. The children link these together to make a paper chain with the complete verse in order as a reminder that Peter was in prison. Have two copies for each team, then put chains round wrists of a team member who then breaks free.

Prayer

All sit in a circle and have an object to hold as they go around the circle and pray. The child with the object is the only one allowed to speak. Get them to thank God that he is there for them in the tough times and the good times and that he answers prayer. Have the leader close in prayer at the end.

Song

'I'm gonna jump up and down' (Be happy) from the album 'Lovely Jubbly' Doug Horley.

Resources Story and Funsheet

Week 6 Story

King Herod was a wicked ruler. He was persecuting the Christians and even had the apostle James, John's brother, put to death. When he saw that the Jews were pleased about it, he had Peter arrested and put in prison.

He wanted to make sure Peter didn't escape, so he put soldiers in the prison to guard him. There were four rotating shifts of four guards each. It would seem there could be no way for Peter to leave the prison. Surely he would be put on trial the next day.

The church during this time was praying that God would take care of Peter. They wanted him to be back with them again. Peter was asleep in the prison. There were chains on each of his wrists, and there was a guard on each side of him *and* more guards at the doorway.

However, nothing is too hard for God. Suddenly there was a bright light inside the prison and an angel appeared. The angel struck Peter on the side to wake him and his chains fell off. "Quick, get up!" he said.

Peter followed the angel's instructions when he told him to put on his clothes and sandals. Then he told him to wrap his coat around him and follow him.

Peter obeyed, although he didn't think it was really happening. He thought it was just a vision. They passed by the first guard, then the second guard, and the guards didn't even see them.

Were they asleep, or were they just blind to what was happening?

There was still one more barrier to his freedom. The iron gate that led to the city was in front of them and then, without anyone pushing on it, the gate swung open by itself. They walked through the gate and went the length of one street. Then, as suddenly as he had appeared, the angel left him.

Peter stood in the quiet stillness of the dark street. It dawned on him what had just happened. It wasn't a vision. It had really happened! God had delivered him from Herod and the terrible fate that the king had planned for him.