



What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Week 17: December 1, 2024

Bible Story Point: God answered the people’s prayer for Peter.

Key Passage: Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

Sunday Night: (Preschool & Children)

Peter was Rescued from Prison (Acts 12)

Acts 12 tells the story of God’s divine and miraculous rescue of His apostle Peter. While King Herod sought to make an example of Peter, it was God alone who was able to showcase His power and might amidst the persecution of the church. This passage highlights the power of prayer amidst hardship and how God’s purposes for His church will prevail despite the futile attempts of the enemy.

What can we learn about God’s plans despite persecution and suffering? What can we learn about living on mission even during our most difficult circumstances?

God’s plans for the good of His church, even during persecution, include the fervent prayers of the saints. The intercession of these faithful believers revealed that their only hope was in the Lord, and it was their prayers that were used by God to rescue Peter from prison. As God answered their prayers, He showcased His power to thwart the evil plans of those who wish to harm His church. Peter’s incredible escape from prison reflects the same hope that we who have trusted in Jesus receive as the chains of sin fall off, and we are set free from condemnation. God’s purpose for His church was by no means coming to an end in that prison cell; rather the word of God spread and multiplied. (Acts 12:24)

The consequence of declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ was costly for Peter and for James, who was executed by Herod. Though Herod’s sentence for James was death, to die would mean this disciple’s gain. Peter knew the consequences of sharing the gospel, yet he also believed that Jesus was worth giving his life to, trusting that the salvation of others was worth the risk as well. Even still, God granted Peter salvation from this prison cell so that he could continue living on mission for Him.

May we be aware that God has done more than send an angel to rescue us from earthly hardship. He sent His very Son to rescue us from the eternal consequence of our sins. Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf offers the hope we need to endure difficulties and the boldness we need to share His divine hope with others.

- Why did Peter get arrested? King Herod Agrippa knew it would please the Jews.
- What did the church do when Peter was imprisoned? They prayed earnestly
- How did the angel awaken Peter in prison? Poked him in the side.
- Where did Peter go after the angel led him out of prison? Mary’s house where they were praying
- What is our best defense from our troubles or circumstances? Prayer—God has power to help us
- How do you pray? For God’s will to be done in your life

Practice: Say (Memorize) Key passage

Pray: Thank God for His power in your life through prayer. Ask God to help build an arsenal through prayer according to His Power and Grace. Who needs prayers this week? Check the Church Prayer list!

Wednesday Night **December 4**

Cubbies – Bear Hug 13 “...I will fear no evil: for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”
Psalm 23:4

Sparks:

Hang Glider – Romans 3:23, For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Wing Runner – Psalm 23:6, Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

Sky Stormer – Luke 19:10, For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

T & T's – 2.6 The Bible is Powerful and Active

Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Saturday Night: (Preschool & Children)

Take a few minutes to debrief last Sunday's lesson.

Preview for Sunday, December 8

We are part of One Church (1 Corinthians 12)

- Who wrote this letter to the church in Corinth? Paul
- How do we know Jesus is our Lord and Savior? Through the Holy Spirit
- What is the Body Paul is talking about? The Church—The Christian Church that began from the Disciples
- Who is the head of the Church? Jesus

Upcoming Activities:

December 2 Mom's Bible Study 9AM in Fellowship Hall (Childcare available - contact Jeanet Bullock)

December 4 Awana Clubs

December 5 Pickle Ball and Walking 6—8PM

Christmas Celebrations

December 1 Hope—Christmas List for Joseph's Locker and Brazos Pregnancy Center

December 8 Peace—Pass on peace to our Community

December 14 Christmas in the Park (Acton Place Park—Kids sing at celebration 4PM)

Christmas Party Childcare 5pm to 9pm

December 15 Joy—Share the gift of Joy—Kids will pass out cookies during Community Time

December 22 Love—Love your neighbor—Christmas Cards

Caroling in nearby Assisted and Nursing Homes Meet at Church 3:30PM

