

## Week 4: Peter Escapes from Prison

*Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Acts 12:7*

### **Read:**

Acts 12:6-17

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt stuck? Like there was no way out of the mess you were in? It is hard to imagine a situation in which you would feel more stuck than being in prison. Constant supervision, limited time outside, long sentences, and no freedom to make your own choices. Sounds pretty bad, right? The apostle Peter spent a lot of time in prison for sharing the Gospel and though he might have felt stuck, he knew that God would continue to use him for His glory.

Peter was chained down in his prison cell, supervised by two guards and awaiting trial the next day when he suddenly saw a bright light. An angel of the Lord appeared to Peter and told him to "get up." All of a sudden, the chains fell off and Peter escaped! He was confused and disoriented and he did not quite understand what was happening until he had left the prison cell and walked down the street. Peter really was free.

When he realized what had happened, Peter went on to tell others about what God had done. Peter continued his ministry of sharing the Gospel exactly as God knew he would. When God has a plan for our lives, nothing can get in the way.

Even when you feel stuck or feel like a terrible situation cannot get any better, remember Peter's story. Like Peter, the Holy Spirit will help us live out God's plan for our lives. We are never truly stuck because we have strength given to us by the Holy Spirit as believers. He comforts us during hard times, guides us as we journey through life, and ultimately helps us make right decisions that keep us on the path toward fulfilling God's purpose for us!

### **Questions to think about:**

1. When is a time you've felt stuck? How did the situation turn out or get resolved?
2. How did the Holy Spirit help guide or support you during that time? Maybe there were things the Spirit was doing that you weren't aware of until after the fact. What might those be?
3. What is something you feel God is calling you to do with your life?
4. How can the Holy Spirit help you fulfill that calling?