



Lights, Camera, Action!

Peter and the Prison Break

BIG IDEA: I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

BIBLE BASIS: Acts 12:1–19

KEY VERSE: “Never stop praying.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica. Scripture marked "NirV" is taken from the Holy Bible, New International Reader's Version™, Copyright ©1995, 1996, 1998 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved. All scripture references are taken from NirV unless otherwise stated.

User Agreement:

The GO! curriculum by Go Tell It, LLC is intended for download and print by subscribing entities only. It may not be transferred electronically to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. If the GO! curriculum is cost prohibitive for your organization, please contact us about assistance. We are awesomely generous! All use must be in accordance with the Terms of Use agreement as described on the website www.gocurriculum.com.



LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Oddly enough, in a world filled with technology meant to connect people, our lives are more isolated than ever. That was the finding of political scientist Robert Putnam in his book *Bowling Alone*. In the book, Putnam highlighted the decline of organizational groups in the United States and found that instead of joining communal activities such as bowling leagues, people were becoming individual islands. Moreover, researchers have found that this isolation isn't without consequences. Studies show that it negatively affects both our mental and physical well-being.

There's another book, though, that warns about the negative effects of isolation — the Bible. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to “not give up meeting together...instead, let us encourage *one another* with words of hope.” *One another* — it's the Biblical remedy for isolation. In fact, the phrase “one another” is used 100 times in the New Testament alone. Two of those times are found in James 5:16, which says, “Confess your sins to one another. Pray for one another so that you might be healed.”

Too often, we fight our sins and carry our burdens alone, in isolation from the community that God has given us. And the effect is predictable — we habitually give in to temptation and collapse under the weight of our burdens. We wonder where God is and why He doesn't help more, all the while ignoring the very instrument He uses to assist us — the Church, the body of believers. *One another*.

God didn't design us to “bowl alone.” By His very triune nature, God lives in community, and He has designed us to do the same. So make the godly resolve to confess your struggles and shortcomings to someone you trust. Invite someone who lives in spiritual community with you to share your burdens. And most importantly, be the “one another” for all those who need the healing powers of prayer.

David Rausch

Go Tell It Founder and Creator



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

7 Steps to Becoming a Master of Memorization

Alright, I'm going to be honest here. I've never heard anyone say that memorization is their favorite thing in the world, but great communicators love delivering great messages, and part of delivering a great message is knowing what you're going to say. Think for just a moment about the best speeches or sermons you've ever heard. I'll bet it wasn't being read to you from a script. One of the reasons it was such a good message is because the pastor or speaker had it committed to memory which allowed them to focus on delivering it in a powerfully impacting way. There's no way around it, memorization requires some work, but the payoff is huge, and there are some things you can do to make it easier. Here's a quick guide to get you started:

Read the whole lesson first. Before you commit anything to memory, you have to know the big picture. It's kind of like using plans to build a bird house. Before you make your first cut or start hammering on things, it helps to know what it's supposed to look like when you're finished.

Mark up the lesson. Pens and highlighters are your best friends! Underline and highlight key phrases, transition sentences, difficult lines, and anything else you think is worthy. This will create visual handles in the lesson that your brain can grab ahold of.

Chunk it. Your brain has trouble remembering vast amounts of unbroken information, so break the lesson down into smaller chunks. When you memorize, just focus on one chunk at a time and then put them all together at the end. The GO! curriculum helps with this by labeling many of the different chunks for you.

Read and recite. Starting with the first chunk, read the first sentence or two. Then put the lesson down and recite it back from memory. Continue doing this until you reach the end of the chunk. Then return to the top and recite the whole chunk in its entirety.

Focus on the transitions. Often the most difficult parts to remember are the transitions from one "chunk" to the next. Be doubly familiar with your transitions.

Write out trouble spots. If there's a line or section that keeps giving you trouble, hand write it out. This involves a separate part of your brain and can help with retention.

Recite the lines out loud. It may seem awkward at first, but speaking the lines is tremendously helpful. Practice teaching the lesson out loud in front of an imaginary audience. It's even better if you can do it in the actual space where the lesson is being taught.

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Quiet on the set — it's movie making time! During "Lights, Camera, Action!," the preschoolers will give the performance of a lifetime as they act out scenes from Bible stories about the early church. When shooting wraps up, they'll have discovered that the church is our supporting cast, but Jesus is the real star of the show!

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- During the storytelling time, the teacher will video record the children as they act out various "scenes" from the Bible story. Provide the teacher with a video camera or confirm they have a cell phone that records video.
- Note: If you are going to use the video for external purposes such as social media, it is a good practice to obtain parental permission first. Otherwise, only use the videos to show to the preschoolers at church.
- Optional: After the lesson, consider uploading the videos to a media presentation software like PowerPoint® and play it on a video screen or computer for the children to see the following week.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Story Time Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½" x 11" cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! It's so, so good to see you here at church. We're going to have so much fun today! We're going to make our very own Bible story movie.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** It's true! **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** In fact, our memory verse from the Bible is all about prayer. Let me teach it to you.

*“Never (shake head “no”)
stop (put hand up in stop motion)
praying (fold hands together).”*

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (extend hands like you're holding a book).

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.)*

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video

(Note: Play the “Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules” video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

Video: Video from Last Week

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! INTRO

Say: In just a minute, we're going to make our Bible story movie, but first, I want to ask you a question. Do you know what prayer is? *(Take a few answers.)* Those are some great answers! Prayer is very simple — it's talking to Jesus.

Say: I have an idea. When I say, "What is prayer?," you say, "Talking to Jesus!" *(Begin with a simple call and response, but then make it more and more fun. Say it fast. Say it slow. Spin around and say it. Hide behind something, then jump out and say it. Towards the end, get tricky by quickly saying, "What is pudding?" The children will still say, "Talking to Jesus." Be creative. Have fun.)*

Say: Wow — you kids did a great job! Prayer is talking to Jesus. In fact, that's what the people in today's Bible story do. When their friend gets taken to jail, they talk to Jesus. If you're ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. *(Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.)* I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the "Peter and the Prison Break" slide

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — PETER AND THE PRISON BREAK

(Note: Use a cell phone or video camera to record the children as they perform the various short Bible “scenes.” For each scene, show the children what to do first, then have them do it. When the lesson is over, consider showing the scenes to the children.)

Say: Are you ready to make our Bible movie? *(Children respond.)* Great! I’ll tell you what to do. Then, when I say, “Lights, camera, action!,” you do it.

Say: In the Bible, in the Book of Acts, there were some mean people who didn’t like Christians. If they found someone who followed Jesus, they would say, “You’re under arrest!” One day, they arrested a man named Peter who loved Jesus very much. They put him in jail, where he was guarded day and night by 12 soldiers. **When I say, “Action!,” swing your pretend sword like a guard and say, “You’re not going anywhere, Peter!”** Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! Nice work!

Say: While Peter was in jail, his church friends prayed for him every day. They asked Jesus to help Peter, and Jesus heard them. One night, Peter was sleeping between two guards. He had chains on his hands to keep him from getting away. Suddenly, an angel of God appeared and woke Peter up. **When I say, “Action!,” let’s pretend to shake Peter awake like the angel and say, “Quick, Peter! Get up, and let’s go!”** Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! That was wonderful!

Say: When Peter got up, the chains fell off his hands. The angel said, “Put your clothes on and follow me.” So that’s what Peter did. **When I say, “Action!,” I want you to quietly run in place like Peter.** Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform. Narrate in a hushed whisper while you record.)* They quietly ran past the first guard. They quietly ran past the second guard. Oh no — stop! There’s a giant gate in our way. *(Children stop running.)* Suddenly, Jesus made the gate open all by itself. Let’s quietly run in place again. *(Children run in place.)* Peter and the angel ran through the gate, out of the jail, and down the street. Then the angel disappeared. Cut! Nice job!

Say: Peter ran all the way to his friend’s house where lots of people from his church were praying. When he knocked on the door, the servant said, “Who is it?” Peter replied, “It’s me, Peter.” The servant was so happy that she forgot to open the door. She ran back to the church friends to tell them the good news. **When I say, “Action!,” run in place like the servant and say, “Peter is at the door!”** Lights, camera, action! *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! That was wonderful!

Say: Peter’s church friends couldn’t believe it. “That’s crazy!” they said. “Peter’s in jail.” But Peter kept on knocking until they opened the door and saw for themselves how Jesus had answered their prayer. **When I say, “Action!,” I want you to jump up and down like Peter’s friends and shout, “Hooray! Jesus answered our prayer!”** *(Press record while children perform.)* Cut! And that’s a wrap!

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In our story for today, Peter's church friends prayed for Peter. They asked Jesus to help Peter get out of jail. Did Jesus answer their prayer? *(Children respond.)* Yes, He did! Peter's friends prayed to Jesus, and we can pray to Jesus too!

Say: You kids got to act during the Bible story, now it's my turn! I'll act something out, and you tell me what you think I'm doing. *(Act like you're waking up. Children guess.)* Good job! Can we pray to Jesus in the morning? *(Children respond.)* Yes! *(Act like you're going to sleep. Children guess.)* Can we pray to Jesus at night? *(Children respond.)* Yes! We can pray to Jesus anytime.

Say: *(Act like you're playing soccer. Children guess.)* Can we pray to Jesus on the soccer field? *(Children respond.)* Yes! *(Act like you're swimming. Children guess.)* Can we pray to Jesus at the swimming pool? *(Children respond.)* Yes! We can pray to Jesus anywhere.

Say: *(Act like you're sick and coughing. Children guess.)* Can we pray to Jesus about being sick? *(Children respond.)* Yes! *(Act like you're sad and crying.)* Can we pray to Jesus about being sad? *(Children respond.)* Yes! We can pray to Jesus about anything.

Say: If you ever want to talk to Jesus, just remember — **you can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**

10.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything**. (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer right now and thank Jesus for hearing us when we talk to Him. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
Thank You for hearing my prayers.
I'm so glad I can talk to You
Anytime, anywhere, and about anything.
I love You, Jesus!
Amen.**