



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

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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 LLC Founder and Creator



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Being a Part of a Kid's Pit Crew

Life can be rough sometimes. We all get our fair share of bumps and bruises along the way, but wouldn't it be nice if life had a pit stop that you could pull into so you could get four new tires and a tank of gas? As rough as we think we have it, kids have it just as bad (and sometimes worse). And for a lot of them, their time with you at church is the closest thing they'll get to a pit stop. Every week they do a lap around life's track, enduring emotional and spiritual bumps and bruises, before they come screeching into your presence. This is your chance to bang out some dents and refuel those kids for another lap. One of the best ways to do that is with words of encouragement. Don't know what to say? Start with this:

Call out the truth in them. How often do you notice or think something positive about someone, but fail to share it with them? If all you did was to give voice to the wonderful things you notice or think about the kids in your group, you would light up their week. More than that, you'll be helping them to form a positive identity that will stick with them for life!

I'm glad to see you. If kids know that their presence brings joy to people, they'll want to come back over and over again. A simple, "I'm glad to see you," reinforces that they're someone worth knowing.

I missed you last time. If one of the kids in your group was gone the last time you served, let them know you noticed. This will help your kids realize they're an integral part of the community.

Great answer! I like how you think! Unfortunately, kids are far more prone to hearing someone tell them they're "dumb" than they are to having someone call out their brilliance. When you bring positive attention to a kid's answer and thought process, it encourages them to participate all the more in the future. Positive reinforcement helps to produce great thinkers.

Develop an arsenal of encouragement. Have some "go-to" words of encouragement that will brighten your kid's day. Like these: God thinks you're awesome! Way to go! You're a really cool kid! Great idea! You're the best! That was awesome! Nice try! You're a lot of fun! You make me smile! I can't wait to see you again!

10.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

Along with your other play time activities, present the following activity to children as they first arrive in the preschool room. Choose a leader to facilitate the activity. The activity is designed to introduce kids to the Bible story and Big Idea for the day.

WHO'S THERE

Supplies: Baking sheet

Directions: Choose a child to hold the baking sheet in front of their face so they cannot see the person standing in front of them. Choose a “knocker” to stand in front of them and say, “Knock, knock.” After the child responds, “Who’s there?,” the knocker must say, “It’s me, Peter,” then sit down with the other children. Once seated, the child may lower the baking sheet and guess who Peter was. Continue playing additional rounds until all of the children have had a turn.

Say: In today’s true Bible story, there’s a man named Peter who knocks on the door. When the people answer the door, they’re VERY surprised. In just a little bit, we’re going to find out why and learn that **we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**

Question: Why do you think the people are surprised to see Peter?

COMBINED LG – 11:00

☆ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

SLEEPING GUARDS (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today’s true Bible story, Jesus answered the people’s prayer by sending an angel to rescue Peter from jail. Let’s play a game that helps us remember that we can pray to Jesus too.

Directions: Tell the children that they are the guards from the Bible story and you are the angel. Have the children lay on the floor and pretend to be sleeping. They must keep their eyes closed tightly. If the angel taps them, they get to be Peter. (Tell them you will only tap them if their eyes are completely closed.) Peter must stand up very quietly and sneak away with the angel. Direct Peter to stand behind you or something in the room so they are out of sight of the guards, then say, “Wake up, guards!” The guards must then sit up and guess which child is Peter by looking to see who is missing. Once the children guess correctly, have everyone say, **“I can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything,”** before going back to sleep. Continue playing rounds until all of the children have been Peter. When finished, ask the question below.

Question: Do you ever pray to Jesus? Where do you pray? What do you pray about?

10.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANYTHING (Application Activity)

Supplies: Prayer Dice (1 set of 3 per group)

Say: Today we learned that **we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything.** Let's play a game that helps us think of times we can pray, places we can pray, and things we can pray about.

Directions: Sit with the children in a circle. Have the children pass the three Prayer Dice around the circle while singing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me" (see below). When the verse is over, have the children holding the dice roll them into the middle of the circle. One die will indicate a time of day, one will indicate a location, and one will indicate a situation. Using the pictures on the dice, ask the children if they can pray to Jesus at that time, location, and situation (in that order). For example, "Can you pray to Jesus in the morning, at the playground, about your lost dog?" Finally, lead the children in responding, "**Yes! We can pray anytime, anywhere, and about anything.**" Continue playing additional rounds and coming up with unique combinations.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

Question: If you could talk to Jesus right now, what would you say to Him? (Note: Remind the children they can say all of those things to Jesus anytime and anywhere.)

THE GIGGLE MONSTER (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: None

Today's Bible verse:

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

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

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. Next, have all of the children stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Tell the children that you are the Giggle Monster and, no matter what you say or do, they must try not to smile or giggle. If they do, they've been caught by the Giggle Monster and have to sit down. Without touching them, begin making silly faces and noises or do silly things to make them smile or laugh. Once all (or most) of the children are seated, tell them they must recite the Bible verse in order to escape. As a group, recite the verse together, then have all of the children stand up again. Repeat multiple times, allowing different children to be the Giggle Monster.

10.4 Small Group Lesson | Preschool



IT'S SHOWTIME (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Bible Story Script (1 per group)

Directions: Tell the children they are going to create their own Bible story play. Tell them you are the director and they are the actors. You don't have to assign roles; all of the children can play act each of the characters from the story. Slowly read the Bible Story Script to the children. As you read, pause occasionally and allow the children to decide how they should act out the scene. As the director, you can give them instructions if they need help. Afterwards, have the children take a seat and ask the question below.

Question: What was your favorite part of that story to act out? Why did you like acting out that part of the story?

MY FAMILY (Response to God Activity)

Supplies: GO! Home Guide (printed on back of coloring sheet, 1 per child), markers or crayons.

Directions: Give each child a GO! Home Guide and some crayons or markers. The sheet will have a space for children to draw. Tell the children to draw a picture of their family. When finished, ask the children to show their picture and to tell about their family.

Say: Today we learned that we can pray to Jesus anytime, anywhere, and about anything. One of the things we can pray about is our family. Let's say a prayer right now. We can tell God about our family and thank Him for giving us a family.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by thanking God for your family and for the families of the children.

Question: If you were one of Peter's church friends, would you have been surprised when Peter knocked on the door? Why or why not?

Question: Peter's church friends prayed for him. Who are your friends at church? How could you pray for them?