

## God Answers Prayer

### Peter Delivered from Prison

#### PREPARE AHEAD

Gather some Bibles for you and your children or have a Bible app ready on your phones.

You can download the Worship Music Files using the following link: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Answers-Prayer-Media.zip>

Print the Remember Verse cards in the Resources folder for your family to cut out and hang around your house.

Prepare the TruWorship songs to play for your family. Lyric sheets are available to help you sing along.

#### REMEMBER VERSE



Use the Remember Verse Cards to help your family memorize this verse. You can also play the game **Team Scrabble** in **Bonus Anytime Activities** to help memorize this verse.

#### CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Gather your family and read **Acts 12:1–19**. Ask your children how God answered the people's prayers. Have each person share how he might have felt if he'd been Peter and an angel had set him free. Invite each family member to share a prayer request. Remember, nothing is too difficult for God! He always hears our prayers and answers them. He may not answer in the way we think He should, and He may not answer right away, but He does answer



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*After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:*

- **How did God answer the prayers of His people?**
- **What was Peter's response to his miraculous release from prison?**
- **How have you seen God answer prayer in your own life?**

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God answers prayer into your everyday life as a family.

## **INVESTIGATE TOGETHER**

**We can always turn to God and trust that He will answer us!**

Read Psalm 17:6 aloud.

- **What are some things you pray about?**
- **How does it feel to know God hears you when you talk with Him?**

**We can always turn to God when we're in trouble—He will help us!**

Read Psalm 50:15 aloud.

- **Why does God want us to pray to Him when things are hard?**
- **In what ways has God delivered—or rescued—you when you turned to Him?**

**The Bible tells us that instead of worrying, we can pray to God.**

Read Philippians 4:6 aloud.

- **What are some things you worry about?**
- **Why does it help to pray when we're worried?**

**The Bible reminds us that when things are tough, we can still have joy and stay faithful in our prayers.**

Read Romans 12:12 aloud.

- **How can we be faithful in prayer?**
- **How can joy, patience, and faithfulness help us know God better?**

## **WORSHIP**

Play the videos for “Jesus Saves” from *Sincerely Yours* and “Radio the World” from *Radio the World* and sing along as a family. Download these songs here: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/lesson-dl.com/tru/TaH-God-Answers-Prayer-Media.zip>



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## Lesson: God Answers Prayer

### BLESS

Before you end your time together, read the blessing from Philippians 4:6b–7:

**In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Bless your child by placing your hand on her shoulder and saying, (Child's name), **may you know that God answers prayer.**

When you finish blessing each child, say a blessing for your family with these words:

**May you take every worry and every situation in your life to God. May you know that He listens to your prayers and answers you.**



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## REMEMBER VERSE

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be  
dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen  
you and help you; I will uphold you with my  
righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

Lessons 4.1–4.5  
Reproducible for church use only.



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## BONUS ANYTIME ACTIVITIES

Here are some optional activities you could do with your family throughout the week to help remember and celebrate the promises of God from the [God Answers Prayer](#) lesson.

Find the ones that look like they would work best from your family and try them out. You might just find a fun new way to build your faith together!

### PRAYING HANDS

#### SUPPLIES

- Hand cutouts
- Scissors
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Hole punch
- Yarn or string (4' plus 6" per child)
- Tape

#### PREPARE AHEAD

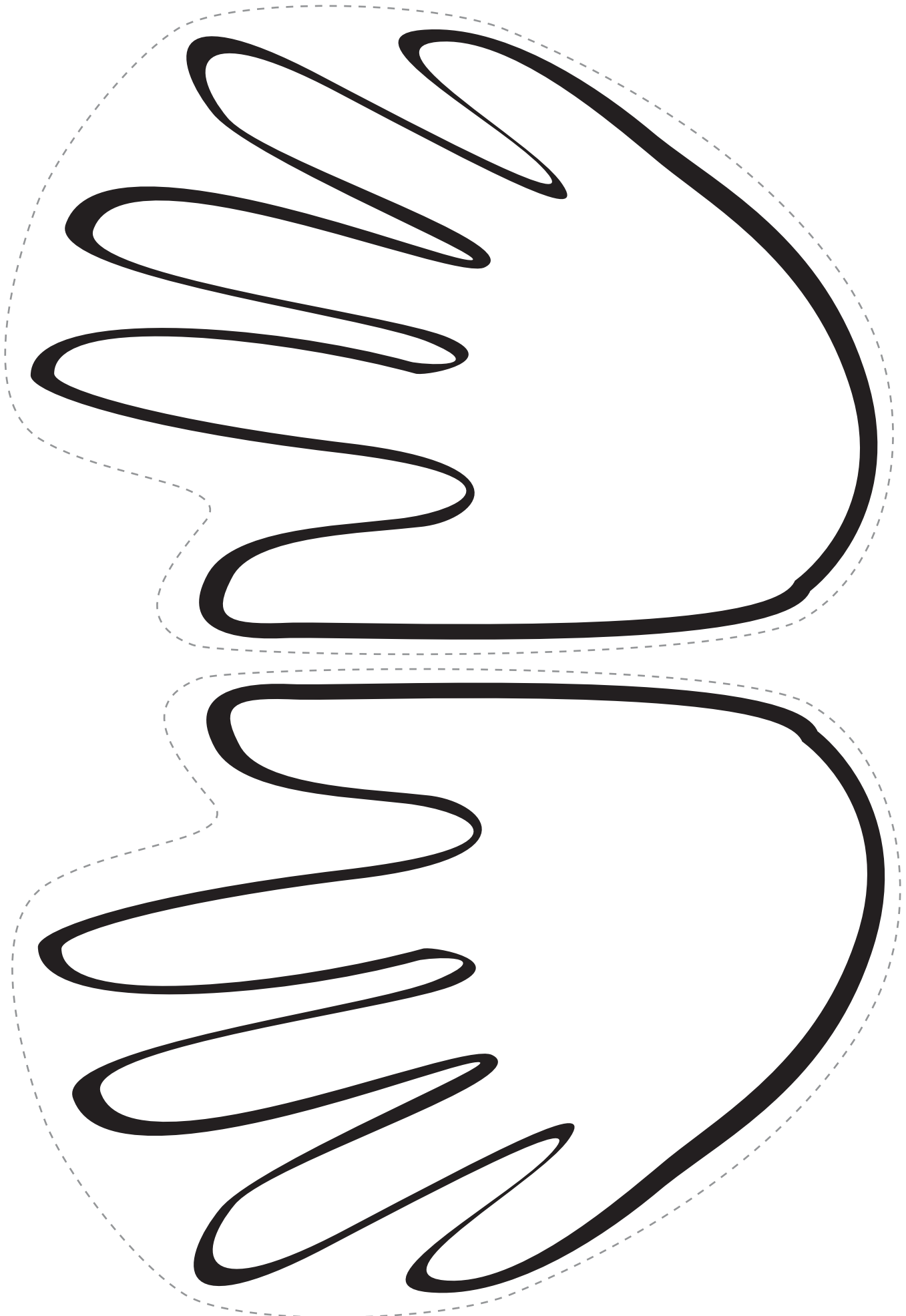
Print a Hand cutout for each child and cut it out. Tape a four-foot piece of yarn (or string) to the wall horizontally and cut the remaining yarn into six-inch pieces

#### RELATE

**God answers the prayers of His people. He knows about everything in our lives, good and bad, and He cares about each of us. What do you want to talk with God about today? What do you need Him to help you with?**

Encourage your children to spend a moment closing their eyes and talking with God about requests for themselves or others. Next, give a Hand cutout to each child and invite them to write or draw pictures related to their prayers. Punch a hole in the top of each hand and allow children to string their yarn through the hole and tie their cutouts to the longer piece of yarn on the wall.





## **GAME: TEAM SCRAMBLE**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Index cards (36)
- Pen

### **PREPARE AHEAD**

Write the following phrases and reference on index cards. Create two sets. So/ do not / fear,/ for I am/ with you;/ do not / be dismayed,/ for I am/ your God./ I will/ strengthen you/ and help you;/ I will/uphold you/ with my/ righteous/ right hand./ Isaiah 41:10

### **RELATE**

Review the Remember Verse with the class a few times so they become familiar with it. Then, break up your group into two teams. Give each team a set of index cards with the phrases of the Remember Verse on them and have the kids race to put the verse in its correct order. The first team to successfully put the verse in order wins.



## QUIET ESCAPE

### SUPPLIES

- Masking tape

### SET UP

Create a masking tape line on one side of a room and another on the other side of the room.

### RELATE

**God answered the prayers of Peter's friends, and Peter was miraculously freed from prison. He quietly escaped to where the other believers had gathered. We're going to play a quiet escape game. To begin, I need a volunteer to be the jailer. Everyone else will be prisoners trying to escape.**

Have prisoners line up on the masking tape line on one side of the room. The guard will stand in the middle of the room facing the opposite direction of the prisoners with his eyes closed. The prisoners will quietly try to cross to the other side of the room without waking up the guard. Once the guard thinks prisoners might be escaping, he can try to tag them before they make it to the safety line. When a child is tagged, he'll have to sit down on the floor and help tag other prisoners as they escape. Choose another child to be the jailer and play another round if you have time.

After the game, discuss:

- **How do you think Peter felt in prison?**
- **How did God answer the prayers of His people?**
- **How has God helped you in a hard situation?**





## PRAYER CHAIN

### SUPPLIES

- Construction paper (1 sheet for every child, various colors)
- Scissors
- Pens
- Stapler

### PREPARE AHEAD

Cut construction paper into two- by eight-inch strips.

### RELATE

**God answers the prayers of His people. He knows about everything in our lives, good and bad, and He cares about each of us. What do you want to talk with God about today? What do you need Him to help you with?**

Encourage your children to spend a moment closing their eyes and talking with God about a request for themselves or others. After that, pass out a strip of paper to each family member and invite them to write something related to his prayer request. It can be a name, a single word, or a sentence. Use the stapler and strips of paper to create a paper chain. Hang the prayer chain in your house as a reminder that children can go to God about anything and that God answers prayer.



## TIED TOGETHER

### SUPPLIES

- Bandanas
- Paper
- Pens
- Balls (3–4)
- Trash can or bucket (large)

### SET UP

Set a trash can or large bucket in a corner of the room with the balls next to it.

### RELATE

**Peter was chained between two prison guards so that he couldn't escape from prison. We're going to see how difficult it is to do tasks when we're tied to someone else.** Have children break into pairs. Within each pair, help each child tie one hand to his partner's hand. Then, give kids various tasks to try to complete with their hands tied together:

- **Give your partner a high five.**
- **Write your name with your free hand.**
- **Sit down on the ground and then stand up.**
- **Tie one of your shoes.**
- **Toss a ball back and forth.**
- **Shoot a ball into a trash can or bucket.**

When kids finish the activity, discuss: **What challenges were most difficult when you were tied together? How would you have encouraged Peter in prison? How have you seen God help someone in a hard situation?**



## PRAYER POSTERS

### SUPPLIES

- Poster board (2 sheets)
- Disposable bowls (4–6)
- Water
- Paint (3–4 colors)
- Paintbrushes (3–4)
- Bedsheets or tarps (2)
- Paper towels
- Tape

### SET UP

Place poster boards on a bedsheet or tarp. Place paint in disposable bowls and fill two bowls with water. Place bowls on another bedsheet or tarp near the poster board along with the paintbrushes.

### RELATE

**God answers the prayers of His people. He knows about everything in our lives, good and bad, and He cares about each of us. What do you want to talk with God about today? What do you need Him to help you with?**

Encourage your children to close their eyes and spend a moment talking with God about a request for themselves or others. After a few minutes, invite them to paint words or illustrations on the poster boards that represent their prayers. If your children prefer, they can also paint praise words to God for answering prayers. Allow the paint to dry and then hang up the posters in your home.



## WHO'S AT THE DOOR?

### SUPPLIES

- None

### RELATE

**God answered the prayers of His people, and Peter arrived at the door as they were praying for him. In this game, you'll have to guess who is at the door.**

To begin, choose someone from your family to be the guest. This person will choose some kind of unique quirk or attribute to pretend to have. For example, someone can act like a police officer, or someone can be really emotional and sad. Choose someone else to be the host. The host will answer the door as the guest comes and will interact with them. After a few minutes, he'll have to guess who his guest is pretending to be.

After the game, discuss:

- **How did Peter's friends react when he showed up at the door?**
- **What do you think it would have been like to see Peter after you'd been praying for him?**
- **Has God ever answered one of your prayers in a way that surprised you? If so, what happened?**



## **ACTS 12:1–19**

Use the statements below to help your children connect what they hear in each week's portion of The Big God Story to their own lives. Encourage your kids to be creative with their answers. If your children seem to have trouble answering right away, give them some time to reflect, or share an example from your own life to get them thinking.

- 1. If I were king or queen for a day, I'd ...**
- 2. If I were king or queen, one rule I'd make everyone follow would be ...**
- 3. If I'd been Peter and had been put in jail, I'd have felt ...**
- 4. One thing I've been praying for is ...**
- 5. If an angel appeared to me and told me to get out of bed, I'd ...**
- 6. A crazy dream I had once was ...**
- 7. One prayer God answered for me was ...**
- 8. When I pray to God, I feel ...**
- 9. A time when I felt surprised was ...**
- 10. If I'd been the guard chained to Peter, I would've ...**



PETER



ACTION WORD  
**TRUST**

THE ACTION BIBLE





## PETER

### **PETER:**

Ho, there. I'm Peter, a disciple of Jesus. I sometimes speak or act before thinking about what might happen. One night in a storm at sea, I saw something this fisherman had never seen before. Somehow, Jesus walked on top of the waves and water. I don't know why, but as soon as I saw Him, I just had to be out there with Him. He told me to come, and before I could think better of it, in TRUST I stepped out of a perfectly good boat, and ... walked on the water as if it were solid ground! It was incredible! Then my thoughts caught up to my actions. I realized how crazy—and impossible—it was to do what I was doing. I panicked, and I started to sink like a rock. Jesus saved me and pulled me back to the boat. There are other stories of me not always thinking things through as thoroughly as I should. Sometimes it's better to just TRUST in Jesus and jump out of the boat!

You're part of this story too. God wants *you* to TRUST in Him.

### **ACTION VERSE:**

Romans 15:13

**What was God's action? When have you TRUSTED someone? What does your family believe about God? In what way is God asking you to TRUST Him today?**

THE ACTION BIBLE™



For the beginning of Peter's story in *The Action Bible*, go to "WALKING ON WATER."

# God Listens to Our Prayers

Acts 12:1-19





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