



Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C
Sunday School

Lesson 8 October 26, 2025
TRUSTING THE SPIRIT

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalms 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalms 119:105**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 9 November 2, 2025

PRAYER WORKS!



- Bible Basis: Acts 12:1-11
- Bible Truth: The fervent prayer of the church in Acts and the work of an angel provided Peter's deliverance.
- Memory Verse: VERSE: "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" (Acts 12:5).
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: EXPLORE the story of Peter's deliverance from prison; RECOGNIZE and appreciate the power of prayer in difficult circumstances; and COMMIT to praying for those whose witness puts them in life-threatening or difficult situations.
- Background Scriptures: [Acts 12:1-24](#) & [Psalm 18:1-9](#). Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

Acts 12:1-11 KJV

- 1** Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.
- 2** And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
- 3** And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)
- 4** And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
- 5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.
- 6** And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Acts 11:1-18 KJV

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Herod the King. It is understood that "Herod the King" is Herod Agrippa, who was appointed by the Roman emperor Claudius to rule over Judea. He is not the same King Herod mentioned in the Gospels in the accounts of Jesus' life. However, he continues the negative legacy that the name Herod carried against Jesus and now His followers. The political scene surrounding the early church was marked by conflicts between the various Roman rulers, Jewish hierarchy, and the growing separation between Jewish traditionalists and the new sect of believers in Christ, "Christians," which included both Jews and Gentiles.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

James. James was the brother of John and one of the twelve disciples who walked the earth with Jesus. Jesus called him, along with his brother John, "Boanerges" or "Sons of Thunder" for their strong fiery tempers ([Mark 3:17](#)). We know nothing about James' ministry after the ascension of Christ except that he was beheaded by King Herod Agrippa in AD 44. Thus he was the first apostle to die as a martyr.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: Students are reminded that in the midst of perilous life situations, deliverance sometimes appears to come through miraculous means.

INTRODUCTION

God's People and Church Persecuted

God's people have always been persecuted or hunted down throughout the centuries. During the time of the Old Testament, this persecution was directed toward many of the Old Testament prophets. Elijah was an enemy of the state during the wicked reign of Ahab ([1 Kings 19:1-3](#)). Jeremiah was thrown in prison by King Zedekiah ([Jeremiah 32:1-5](#)). Rabbinical sources state that Isaiah was sawed in half during the reign of King Manasseh. Regardless of whether they escaped or lost their lives, these prophets depended on and trusted in God.

INTRODUCTION

God's People and Church Persecuted

The early church faced waves of persecution. This began with the martyrdom of Stephen and was led by Saul the Pharisee. Once Saul was converted to Christ, the churches had rest from persecution and gained a short season of peace. Soon, during a time of famine, the church was targeted by King Herod Agrippa, who was pro-Pharisee and beloved by the Jewish establishment.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: Students will know that believers should pray
together and expect God to answer.

I. PUNISHED FOR PREACHING

Acts 12:1-3

Peter seems to have been made for tough times, considering the various challenges he experienced during and since his days walking with Jesus. He was once personally vexed by the crowing rooster when he realized he had denied Jesus just before the crucifixion ([John 18:15-27](#)). Now, Peter finds himself the victim of a vengeful and jealous king seeking to kill him as an example to deter believers in Christ. The persecution of the early church came largely from two forces: the imperial Roman government and the established Jewish leadership (cf. [Acts 9:1-2](#)).

I. PUNISHED FOR PREACHING

Acts 12:1-3

Referred to as "Herod," the king is Herod Agrippa, who like many similar rulers was known for his violent acts toward his enemies. Killing James "with the sword" is generally understood to be a beheading (v. 2). This was also intended to be Peter's fate. Beheading is a severe and immediate form of capital punishment, symbolizing silencing of offender. Herod's desire to "vex" or torment the church by punishing its leaders was a ploy to keep followers in line by brutish example.

I. PUNISHED FOR PREACHING

Acts 12:1-3

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The "time" referred to is during a famine in Judea ([Acts 11:28](#)). This is now the third of four Herods to enter the Luke-Acts narrative. The first was Herod the Great, who reigned during the priesthood of Zacharias ([Luke 1:5](#)). The second was Herod Antipas, who shadowed Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection ([Luke 9:7-9; 23:7-15](#)). This "Herod the king" in [Acts 12:1](#) is Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great and the father of Herod Agrippa II ([Acts 25:13-26](#)). Herod Agrippa I had been brought up in Rome, where he made many influential friends-among whom were Gaius Caligula and Claudius. When Caligula became emperor (AD 37-41), he granted Herod the tetrarchies ruled by Philip and Lysanius ([Luke 3:1](#)).

Lesson 9 November 2, 2025
PRAYER WORKS!



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Later he added the tetrarchy of Herod Antipas to Herod Agrippa's possessions. After Caligula's assassination, Herod helped Claudius receive confirmation from the Roman senate as emperor. The new emperor added Judea and Samaria to Herod's kingdom. So from AD 41 to the time of his death in AD 44, Herod Agrippa ruled over a reassembled kingdom the same size as his grandfather, Herod the Great. He was as loved by the Jewish establishment as his grandfather was hated.

Lesson 9 November 2, 2025

PRAYER WORKS!



I. PUNISHED FOR PREACHING

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Herod Agrippa was committed to maintaining a peace favorable to Rome - a policy called "Pax Romana." Therefore, he supported the religious establishment and was hostile toward all who saw things differently. Because he saw Jewish Christians as disruptive, he sought to suppress them. To this end, he arrested some of Jesus' followers and had James executed. This James was one of the first followers of Jesus ([Luke 5:10](#)) and was one of the Twelve ([Luke 6:14-16](#)). He, along with his brother John (son of Zebedee) and Peter were close friends with Jesus ([Luke 8:51, 9:28](#)). He was often called James the Great to distinguish him from James the son of Alphaeus ([Acts 1:13](#)). He was also not to be confused with James, the half-brother of Jesus ([Galatians 1:19](#)). The death of James signaled the end of the short period of tranquility enjoyed by the Jerusalem leadership after Saul's conversion ([Acts 9:31](#)).

Lesson 9 November 2, 2025

PRAYER WORKS!



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Upon seeing that his action pleased the Jews, Herod Agrippa I had Peter arrested to preserve the status quo. The reason "it pleased the Jews" may also lie in the means of James' execution. In the Talmud, the rabbis considered beheading the most shameful of all deaths, reserved for those who had no share in the world to come. The execution of James was therefore a gesture of solidarity on Herod's part with the Jewish majority, a statement that he regarded Jesus' followers as apostates and agitators. Luke parenthetically told his readers that these "were the days of unleavened bread." Although the celebration of the feast began with the Passover meal on 14 Nisan (the first month of the Jewish calendar), the "days of unleavened bread" continued for seven days more ([Exodus 12:3-20, 23:15, 34:18](#)). The reader is expected to make the connection between this arrest and that of Jesus, which also occurred at Passover.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Herod Terrorizes the Church

To appease the Jewish leaders and redirect them from the critical issue of famine, Herod chose to terrorize the church. In this situation, the church needed to depend on God in the same way as the Old Testament prophets.

II. BOXED IN

Acts 12:4-6

Peter's crime of preaching could not have been so severe as to warrant the intensity of his imprisonment, yet he is held like one sentenced for a capital crime. He is guarded by a group of four soldiers who completely surround Peter at all times. Two are on watch and the other two are chained to him (v. 6). In essence, being surrounded on four sides, Peter was boxed in. Not only was he relegated to the enclosed box of the prison cell, but with round-the-clock guards, and two of them physically bound to him, there was absolutely no way to escape.

II. BOXED IN

Acts 12:4-6

In light of the lesson's theme, Peter's circum-stances are clearly at such a critical point that only prayer-and a divine intervention-could bring about a change. Prayer is described as offering, or an address to God. That the church prayed "without ceasing" underscores the importance of communicating with God even more fervently when other resources are not available. Addressing the king through political appeal is not mentioned. A rescue or demand for a proper trial is not attempted. There is only the church instituting constant and fervent prayer, a concept that remains today ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). If indeed a believer is found to be in an impossible situation, there is no other remedy than to call upon the King of Kings.

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PRAYER WORKS!



II. BOXED IN

Acts 12:4-6

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

The delay functions in the narrative to build tension and allows the reader to see the activity of the church working against that of Herod. Overall, the action stands in contrast to the summary execution of James by "the sword" in verse 2. We can see the importance of this trial in the eyes of Herod as Peter is guarded by four quaternions, or sixteen soldiers.

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PRAYER WORKS!



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While Peter was in prison, the believers were continually praying to God for him. Throughout Acts, the church is portrayed as a praying community ([Acts 1:14, 24; 2:42; 4:24-30; 13:3](#)).

The adverbial phrase "without ceasing" (Gk. *ektenes*, ek-teh-OSE) denotes eagerness and earnestness. It is from a verb that means to stretch out the hand, implying an attitude of not relaxing until a thing is accomplished. The community's prayer is contrasted with Peter's powerlessness to escape.

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PRAYER WORKS!



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Herod may have heard of Peter and John's earlier escape and decided to fortify security measures (Acts 5:17-20). Luke takes time to break down the duties of one quaternion. The custom with such squads was to have four men on duty at a time, in four revolving watches. Here two slept next to Peter and one was at each of the two guard posts (v. 10). These elaborate security measures heighten the wonder of the escape.

III. DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Acts 12:7-10

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

III. DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Acts 12:7-10

The angel appears to Peter and instructs him to get up. These messengers from God played an important role through substantial portions of the books of Luke and Acts ([Luke 1:11, 26; 2:9,13; Acts 8:26; 27:23](#)). Together, the use of the words "behold" (Gk. idou, ee-DOO) and "came upon" (Gk. ephistemi, eh-FEES-tay-me) gives the sense of a sudden and startling appearance (cf. [Luke 2:9](#)). As with the appearance to Saul, "light" (Gk. phos, FOCE) was a sign of heavenly presence ([Acts 9:3; 22:6, 9-11](#)).

III. DIVINE DELIVERANCE

Acts 12:7-10

Peter followed the instructions of the angel, although he believed it was a vision. It is important to note that Peter gets fully dressed. He puts on his shoes and belt as well as his outer garment or coat. This indicates it was not a swift escape made with human effort, but the work of God. The verb "thought" (Gk. dokeo, doh-keh-OH) is in the imperfect active tense, which means that while the escape was taking place, he kept on thinking and being confused about whether he was in a vision. It is only after the angel departs that Peter realizes the escape is real.

IV. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH ARE OPEN

Acts 12:11-12

Peter "came to himself." He collected his thoughts, or gathered his head; his physical head was literally saved in those moments. King Herod had threatened Peter with beheading, thus silencing the spread of God's Word, but now after the miraculous rescue by the angel, Peter can think clearly. He says he is absolutely sure the Lord has delivered him. Prayer will be effective as it will invoke God's presence and action. Peter realize she had not been dreaming; it had to be the activity of God that set him free.

IV. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH ARE OPEN

Acts 12:11-12

Once Peter regains full consciousness, he quickly finds his way to the church. There the believers prayed for Peter, not knowing how God would answer, but knowing for "surety," truth above all, that He would answer. Although Peter was very much a believer and no doubt prayed for his own escape, the church needed to see for themselves how God heard them. Peter could not introduce the church to the angel, nor invite it in to explain how a blow to the side could both awaken him and removed his chains. All he had was his physical body as proof not only that he had escaped, but that God indeed answers prayer.

IV. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH ARE OPEN

Acts 12:11-12

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

The withdrawal of the angel of the Lord corresponds to Peter's "coming to himself." The Greek phrase (en heauto ginomai; en he-ow-TOE GHEE-no-my) indicates that Peter's state of being changed. He was no longer sleeping but in waking consciousness. In this state, he is able to understand what has happened to him and that it was not simply a dream.

IV. THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH ARE OPEN

Acts 12:11-12

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The phrase "now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel" is a declaration that Peter is aware this whole ordeal was not a dream, but orchestrated by God. The word "surety" (Gk. alethos, ah-ley-THOS) means simply truth or reality. As in Acts 12:3, Luke joins the power of Herod to the hostile expectation of the Jews. Here the adverbial use of the term "expectation" (Gk. prosdokia, pros-doe-KEE-ah) is used. In the New Testament it is only used here and in [Luke 21:26](#). The word can be used for positive or negative expectation. It is in the negative sense here, as Peter realizes that he has been rescued from the persecution of Herod and the vocal Jewish leadership who influenced him.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

God's Angel

The angel of the Lord provides some contrast to popular images of these celestial beings. With more boisterous action than the singing, fluttering angels of popular culture, this angel "smote" or hit Peter in the side.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: Students will learn that believers should
pray together and expect God to answer.

BIBLE APPLICATION

The church is depicted in this lesson as a place of refuge and mutual support. Unfortunately, today the church seems to be the last place considered for those needs. It is very important that believers remember how unity is a common thread which God uses not only to build His kingdom, but also protect and love His people. Is the church today anything like the church that prayed for Paul?

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: Students will learn that God can rescue people from dangerous circumstances.

STUDENT RESPONSES

Often we pray without considering whether our prayers are heard. Instead of praying as an empty ritual, we can practice praying in faith that God will answer. Encourage the class to discuss and select an issue or current event for which they will pray over a period of time. Select someone in the class to monitor the situation and give a report of their prayers at work.

Prayer

Our Provider and our Deliverer,

We are so grateful that You take care of us and provide a way out of no way. We worship and adore You for showing us Your mercy each and every day.

In the Name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

Next Sunday
November 9, 2025
Lesson 10
God Makes No Distinction
Acts 15:1-12