



HOPE WEEK 3



HOPE

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SET FREE

FOCUS

ACTS 12:2-7, 9-10 & 12-16

Peter was arrested and sent to prison!
While he was in prison, the church prayed for him! One night an angel came and set him free and Peter got to tell the people who had been praying that their prayers were answered!

MATERIALS

Set Free picture
Strips of paper for chains (1 set per child)
Arrested coloring page and 16 guards (1 set per child)
Prison
16 stuffed animals
Angel actor
Church actors and door
Crayons, glue and stapler

ACTIVITIES

1. INTRODUCTION

TALK: Ask the children if they know about Peter being arrested and an angel helping him escape!

ACTIVITY: Show children the Set Free picture and hang nearby for them to see.



2. ARRESTED

TALK: James, one of Jesus disciples was killed, and then Peter was arrested!

ACTIVITY: Make paper chains.



CORRESPONDING VERSE

HE HAD JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JOHN, PUT TO DEATH WITH THE SWORD. WHEN HE SAW THAT THIS MET APPROVAL AMONG THE JEWS, HE PROCEEDED TO SEIZE PETER ALSO.

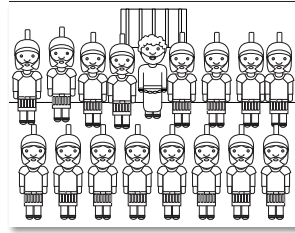
ACTS 12:2-3

ACTIVITIES

3. 16 GUARDS

TALK: Peter was put in prison with 16 guards!

ACTIVITY: Color and glue 16 guards around Peter.



CORRESPONDING VERSE

AFTER ARRESTING HIM, HE PUT HIM IN PRISON, HANDING HIM OVER TO BE GUARDED BY FOUR SQUADS OF FOUR SOLDIERS EACH. HEROD INTENDED TO BRING HIM OUT FOR PUBLIC TRIAL AFTER THE PASSOVER.

ACTS 12:4

4. PRAY!

TALK: While Peter was in prison, the church prayed for him!

ACTIVITY: Have children pray for Peter to be set free!

SO PETER WAS KEPT IN PRISON, BUT THE CHURCH WAS EARNESTLY PRAYING TO GOD FOR HIM.

ACTS 12:5

5. IN CHAINS

TALK: The next day Peter was going to trial. He might be killed just like his friend James! But he wasn't worried! He was sleeping! Right between two soldiers!

ACTIVITY: Have children put on chains and pretend to be sleeping in the prison. Put 16 different stuffed animals around the children to represent the guards.

THE NIGHT BEFORE HEROD WAS TO BRING HIM TO TRIAL, PETER WAS SLEEPING BETWEEN TWO SOLDIERS, BOUND WITH TWO CHAINS, AND SENTRIES STOOD GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE.

ACTS 12:6

6. CHAINS FALL OFF

TALK: Suddenly an angel came and woke Peter up! When he told Peter to get up, the chains fell off Peter's wrists!

ACTIVITY: Have an angel actor appear and tell the children to get up and let the chains fall off!

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

ACTIVITIES

7. SET FREE

TALK: The angel led Peter right out of prison! Past all the guards and no one told them to stop! Peter did not believe what was happening was real!

ACTIVITY: Have the children walk past the stuffed animal guards and outside the prison without being caught!

8. THE GATE OPENED

TALK: When they came to a gate that led to the city, the gate opened by itself! After they had walked one block the angel left Peter!

ACTIVITY: Have the children walk to a door and have it open for them. Encourage the children to walk through it to freedom! Then have the angel actor leave.

9. PRAYERS ANSWERED

TALK: Peter went straight to the house of a friend from church! When he got there he knocked on the door, but the woman who answered didn't believe he was there! Then everyone in the house found out that their prayers had been answered and Peter was free!

ACTIVITY: Have the children knock on a door and the church actors inside say "Who's there?" Then have them answer "It's Peter! I'm free!" Then have the actors say, "Peter's not free!" and have the children respond "Yes I am!" Afterwards have the actors answer the door and get excited that Peter was free! Then give them a "Your Prayer was Answered" sticker!

OPTIONAL: Hand out each child a bible verse to take home.

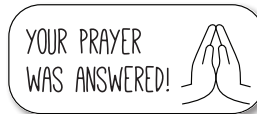
CORRESPONDING VERSE

PETER FOLLOWED HIM OUT OF THE PRISON, BUT HE HAS NO IDEA THAT WHAT THE ANGEL WAS DOING WAS REALLY HAPPENING; HE THOUGHT HE WAS SEEING A VISION.

ACTS 12:9

THEY PASSED THE FIRST AND SECOND GUARDS AND CAME TO THE IRON GATE LEADING TO THE CITY. IT OPENED FOR THEM BY ITSELF, AND THEY WENT THROUGH IT. WHEN THEY HAD WALKED THE LENGTH OF ONE STREET, SUDDENLY THE ANGEL LEFT HIM.

ACTS 12:10



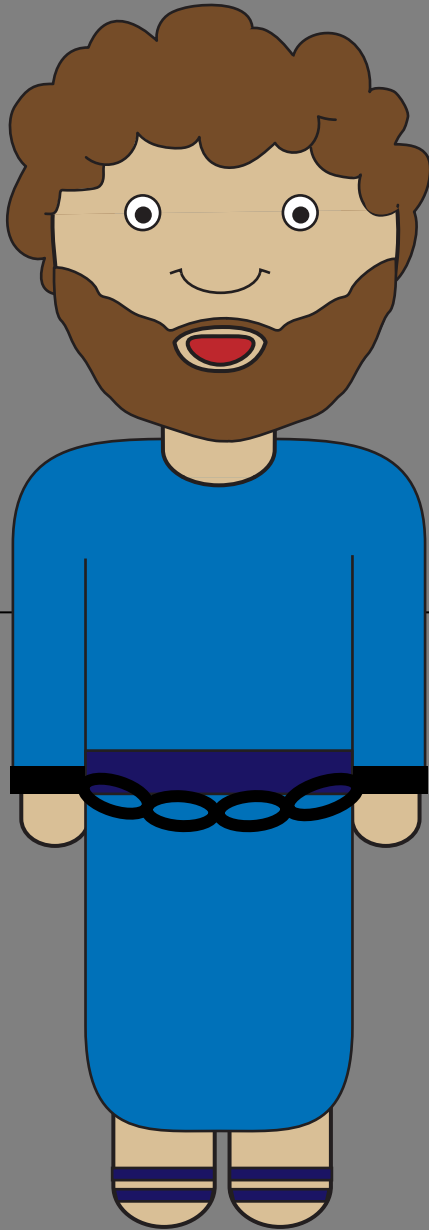
HE WENT TO THE HOUSE OF MARY... WHERE MANY PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AND WERE PRAYING. PETER KNOCKED AT THE OUTER ENTRANCE, AND A SERVANT NAMED RHODA CAME TO ANSWER THE DOOR. WHEN SHE RECOGNIZED PETER'S VOICE, SHE WAS SO OVERJOYED SHE RAN BACK WITHOUT OPENING IT AND EXCLAIMED, "PETER IS AT THE DOOR!" "YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND," THEY TOLD HER. WHEN SHE KEPT INSISTING THAT IT WAS SO, THEY SAID, "IT MUST BE HIS ANGEL." BUT PETER KEPT ON KNOCKING, AND WHEN THEY OPENED THE DOOR AND SAW HIM, THEY WERE ASTONISHED.

ACTS 12:12-16

THE CHAINS FELL OFF
PETER'S WRISTS

ACTS 12:7

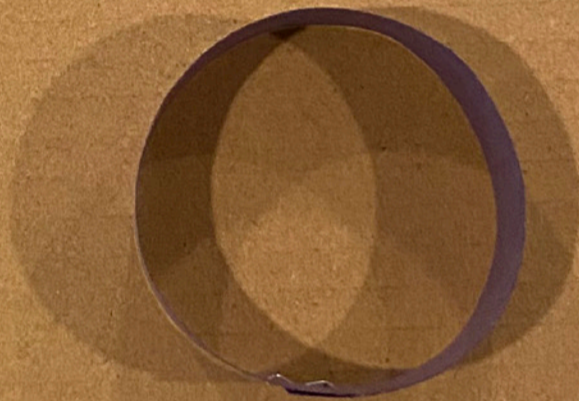
SET FREE



CHAINS



CUT 5 1" STRIPS
OF PAPER

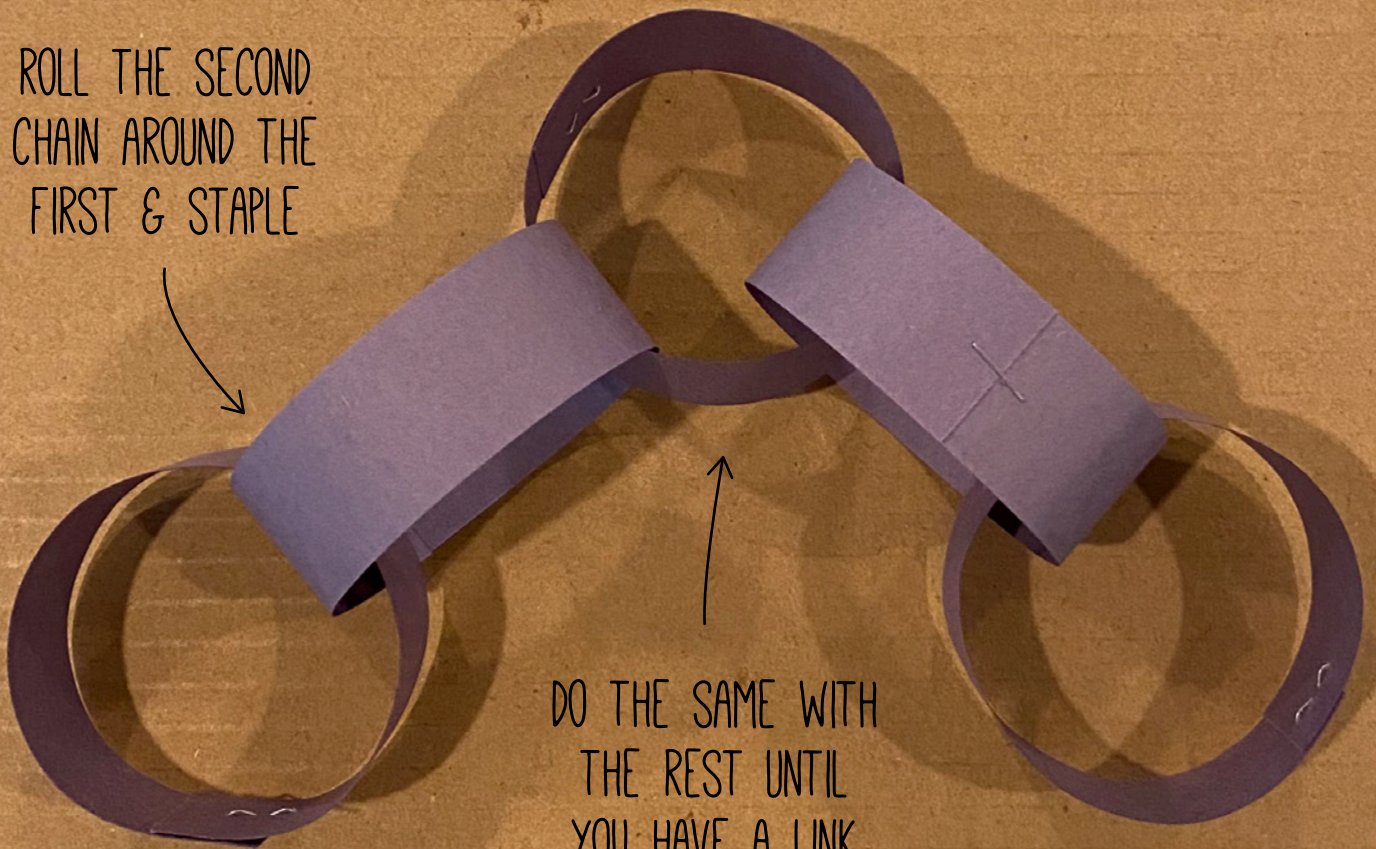


ROLL INTO A
CIRCLE & STAPLE

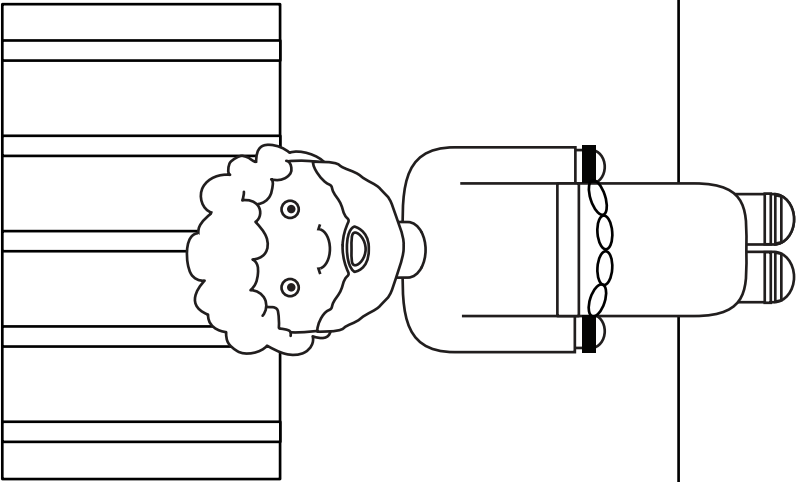


CHAINS

ROLL THE SECOND
CHAIN AROUND THE
FIRST & STAPLE

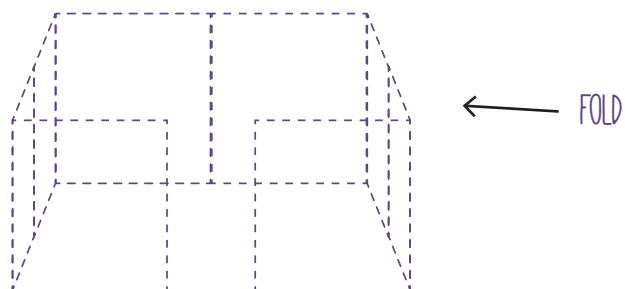
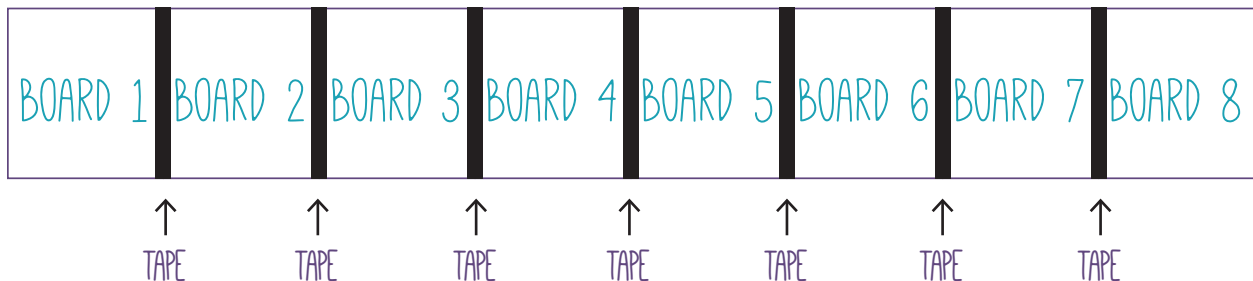


DO THE SAME WITH
THE REST UNTIL
YOU HAVE A LINK
OF 5 CHAINS



PRISON

Using gorilla tape, I taped 8 pieces of large cardboard together. Leaving two untaped to form a door. I also cut "bars" in one piece to resemble a prison.



THE CHAINS FELL OFF
PETER'S WRISTS

ACTS 12:7

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