



**THE POWER OF
PERSISTENT
PRAYERS**



The Power of Persistent Prayers

Bible Lesson

In Acts chapter 12 is a story about the Apostle Peter and his fellow believers. They faced a terrible problem. They knew the power of their prayers. They knew that God's people pray to solve problems, and so that's what they did. Let's discover why they prayed and see the surprising way that God answered.

(Use the mini-drama provided in the supplement to this lesson. Choose six children to play the parts. You may provide a script for each one to read from.)

After they present the skit ask your students the following questions:

Q: What was the problem Peter had?

Q: What did Peter's friends do to solve the problem?

Q: How did God answer their prayers?

Q: How did Peter's friends react when they

heard that Peter was free?

Q: Since Peter's friends were surprised at God's answer, what do you think they might have been asking God to do for Peter? *(That the trial would go well, or Peter would be brave, etc.)*

Acts 12:5 states, "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" (KJV).

Have your class repeat after you, "God's people pray to solve problems." (Do this more than once if you feel like it.)

Now, ask if anyone has a problem they want the group to pray with them about or a friend or family member they want to share Jesus with.

(You may divide into small groups first.)

Then, pray.

Power Point

God wants us to ask, seek, and knock.

MEMORY VERSE
Luke 11:19, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (NIV)

Small Group

God is Greater than an Earthly Father

Read Luke 11:5-13—Then say: Jesus is teaching us here the lesson of persistence and steadfast faith.

Q: What does the friend do? *(The friend continues to knock until he is answered.)*

Q: What does Jesus say about earthly fathers? *(They are sinful. They make mistakes, but they still give their children good things.)* Then Jesus says that God is so much greater than our earthly fathers.

Q: So why do we sometimes think God might not care about us? *(Allow answers)*

Say: He is our creator, savior, and Heavenly Fa-

ther. We can rest assured that He will take care of us. We can talk to Him anytime and know He hears.

Explain: This story of Jesus reminds us to be diligent in prayer. Note what it does NOT mean:

It does not mean only talk to God when we want something.

- It does not mean God will always give us what we think we WANT (but He gives us what we need!)
- It does not mean we should ask our parents for things over and over and over and over...
- But it DOES mean God wants to hear from us as His beloved children, and we can rest assured that He will listen and bless us with what is truly best for us.





Mini-Drama

Who's Knocking at the Door? (Acts 12:1-19)

Christian 1: This is terrible! King Herod threw Peter into prison!

Christian 2: What if Herod kills Peter? He already had James killed!

Christian 3: Let's not panic. Let's figure out how we're going to solve this problem.

Christian 1: I have an uncle who works in Herod's palace. Maybe he could ask Herod to let Peter go.

Christian 2: I'd be willing to sneak over and see if we could help him escape.

Christian 3: Wait a minute. We're forgetting the most important thing here. We need to pray.

Christian 1: that's right. Let's pray and see how God will answer.

Narrator: For days the Christians prayed for Peter. One night, as they were praying, they heard knocking.

Mary: Who could be coming at this time of night? Rhoda, go and see who it is.

Rhoda: (Goes to the door.) Who is it?

Peter: It's me — Peter! I'm free!

Rhoda: Free? That's great! I have to tell everyone!

Narrator: Without even opening the door. Rhoda ran to tell the others.

Rhoda: It's Peter! He's free!

Christian 2: That's impossible! He's in prison.

Christian 3: Maybe it's an angel.

Mary: Whoever it is, he's still knocking. Rhoda, go and see again.

Narrator: When Rhoda let Peter in, they were all amazed.

Peter: My friends, God has answered your prayers! Tonight I was sleeping in my prison cell. I was surrounded by soldiers.

Mary: You could never escape from there!

Peter: Not by my own power. But an angel came to my cell. I thought I was dreaming! The angel told me to get up and leave. My chains fell off. I walked right out of the prison and out of the city. When the angel disappeared, I knew it wasn't a dream! I was free!

Mary: We have been praying for you. And God knew just how to solve this problem! Praise God!





like Peter's friends praying for him and God rescued him from jail.

1. Prayer is like talking to a friend: Just like you talk to your friends every day, praying every day helps you build a strong relationship with God.

2. Prayer takes patience: Sometimes, you might not get what you asked for right away, but that doesn't mean you should give up. Keep praying and be patient.

3. Prayer is powerful: Even though it might seem like you're just saying words, prayer can make big things happen, just

4. Prayer is for everyone: It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or what you've done; you can always pray and God hears you.

Remember, persistent prayer means to keep on praying, even when it seems tough, because it's a way to show faith and trust in Jesus.

Lesson Introduction Activity

Two Games that get kids thinking about asking (or manipulating).

Don't Crack Up! - Have students sit in a circle. Designate one student to be the "cracker" and go in the middle of the circle. Give that child a phrase to say, and have them walk around trying to make the others laugh. The first person to laugh goes in the middle of the circle and does the same thing. OR have students pair up and see if they can make one another laugh.

What will it take to.... Form groups of students, and select one person from each group to be the "task doer". Encourage the other kids to make the task student do something (stand on one foot, make a silly face, turn around and cluck like a chicken, etc.). Encourage kids to use words and polite phrases to get people to do what they want. See what it takes to force students into action (this works for multiple age groups).

Say: Today our lesson is about how Jesus says prayer is asking, seeking, and knocking.





Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in.”

~Jesus (Rev. 3:20 NLT)