

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

Acts 12:1-17

**LIFE POINT**

People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.

**CHRIST FOCUS**

Jesus prayed.

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

People at church help others.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: July 23

**BIBLE VERSE**

Pray for one another.  
James 5:16 (*Paraphrase*)

Pray for one another.  
James 5:16 (*CSB*)

Pray one for another.  
James 5:16 (*KJV*)

Pray for each other.  
James 5:16 (*NIV*)

Pray for one another.  
James 5:16 (*ESV*)

Pray for one another.  
James 5:16 (*NKJV*)

**UNIT 2: PEOPLE AT CHURCH***Session 4: People Prayed for Peter***SCHEDULE AND PROPS**

**Huddle Ups** (*optional; time varies*)  
Supplies (*for each small group*):

- “Listen and Move”—painter’s tape
- “People Prayed for Peter”—crayons, coloring sheets (*1 per child*)
- “Make a Prayer Quilt”—colored paper, scissors, coloring supplies, tape

**Countdown Video** (*3 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Welcome and Prayer** (*5 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Connection Point Game**  
(*10 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Bible Story** (*10 minutes*)

Props: Bible, photos of kids expressing various emotions (*happy, sad, and surprised*)

**Worship Song and Offering**  
(*3 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Connection Point Bible Verse**  
(*5-8 minutes*)  
Props: flashlight

**Connection Point Missions**  
(*5-8 minutes*)  
Props: none

**Real Life Connections**  
(*3-5 minutes*)  
Props: 4 sheets of paper, marker, tape

**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**  
*Countdown* video
- **Worship Song:**  
“Church, Church, Church, Let’s Go!”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**  
*Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Game:**  
*Connection Point Game* slide
- **Worship Song:**  
“Just Like Jesus”
- **Bible Story:**  
*Bible Story* and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**  
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**  
*Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**  
*Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; “Michael and Traci Byrd” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**  
*Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides

## HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
  - "Listen and Move"—painter's tape
  - "People Prayed for Peter"—crayons, coloring sheets (1 per child)
  - "Make a Prayer Quilt"—colored paper, scissors, coloring supplies, tape

## HUDDLE UP (BEFORE THE SESSION)

### **"LISTEN AND MOVE"**

*Prep: Tape 6 to 8 parallel lines on the floor. Space the lines about 1 foot apart.*

- Suggest preschoolers play a listening game.
- Challenge preschoolers to listen to your instructions and move accordingly:
  - Step from line-to-line.
  - Walk backward, stepping from line to line.
  - Hop between each line.
  - Hop line-to-line, using two feet.
  - Hop line-to-line, using one foot.
  - Stand on the first line and jump as far as you can.
  - Tiptoe (*march, hop, take giant steps*) the length of each line.
- Thank the children for being good listeners and following your instructions.
- Ask: "Do you think God is a good listener?" (yes)
- Comment that God is a very good listener. He always listens when people pray.
- Explain that prayer is "talking to God."
- Tell preschoolers that people at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.

## HUDDLE UP (BEFORE OR AFTER THE SESSION)

### **"PEOPLE PRAYED FOR PETER"**

*Prep: Print this session's coloring sheet (available on the DVD-ROM).*

- Tell preschoolers that Peter's church friends prayed for him while he was in prison.
- Distribute crayons and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages while they wait for the session to begin.

## HUDDLE UP (AFTER THE SESSION)

### **"MAKE A PRAYER QUILT"**

*Prep: Cut colored paper into 6-inch squares. Cut at least 1 square per child.*

- Review the Life Point: **People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.**
- Lead preschoolers to tell what they know about prayer. (*Correct any misconceptions.*)
- Remind preschoolers that Peter's friends prayed for him while he was in prison.
- Say: "People at church help others. A great way that we can help others is to pray for them."
- Give each child a paper square and provide coloring supplies.
- Encourage each child to draw one thing he would like to pray about or one person for whom he would like to pray. Suggest that he may want to pray for a sick friend, thank God for something, or tell God: "I love You."
- Tape the completed squares to the wall in a quilt pattern.
- Pray with the children and mention the needs drawn on the quilt.
- **Leader note:** Provide extra paper squares for preschoolers who have additional prayer needs or concerns. Add the squares to the quilt as your time allows.

**COUNTDOWN VIDEO**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown video*
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

*(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)*

**WORSHIP SONG**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Church, Church, Church, Let’s Go!” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

**WORSHIP LEADER**

Hi, friends! I’m happy to see you today! Let’s wave at the friends near us and say, “I’m happy you’re here.” *(Allow kids to respond.)* That’s great! I like to go to church with my friends. Let’s stand together and sing.

*(Show the music video.)*

*(Kids stand to sing.)*

**WELCOME AND PRAYER**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

**BIBLE STORY LEADER**

Can you guess what I heard today? *(Allow kids to guess.)* I heard lots of church friends laughing, talking, and having fun together! It’s fun to talk to friends at church. What do you and your friends like to talk about? *(Allow for responses.)*

You can talk to your friends, your mom and dad, your grandparents, and your church leaders. You can talk to the neighbors who live next door and the person you meet on the playground. Did you know that you also can talk to God? Talking to God is called *prayer*.

*(Show Life Point Slide.)*

**People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.** Say that with me: **“People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.”**

God hears you when you pray. He listens when you talk to Him! Today’s Bible verse says that we should pray for one another. Listen as I say the Bible verse, and then we will say it together.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)*

*(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)*

**BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- Pray for one another. James 5:16 *(Paraphrase)*
- Pray for one another. James 5:16 *(CSB)*
- Pray one for another. James 5:16 *(KJV)*
- Pray for each other. James 5:16 *(NIV)*
- Pray for one another. James 5:16 *(ESV)*
- Pray for one another. James 5:16 *(NKJV)*

We can pray for other people and ask God to help them. We can pray for people who are sick or who have a problem. Let’s pray, right now.

*God, thank You that we can talk to You. Thank You for hearing us when we pray. Please remind us to pray for one another. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.*

**CONNECTION POINT GAME**

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 6 kids
- ➔ Props: none

**GAME INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Choose 6 kids.
- Designate 1 player as the “hearer.”

- *Whisper a different word to each of the remaining players. Use simple words such as animals, colors, or foods. Be sure to assign 1 child the word pray.*
- *Explain that all of the players will say their words over and over.*
- *Challenge the hearer to find the child saying the word pray.*
- *When the hearer finds the child, that player becomes the new hearer.*
- *Whisper new words to each player and play again.*
- *Continue as time allows.*
- **Leader note for smaller groups:** *Invite everyone to play this game!*

### CONNECTION POINT LEADER

*(Show Connection Point Game slide.)*

Today's Bible verse says that we should pray for one another. What is *prayer*? *(Allow for responses.)* Prayer is "talking to God." God hears us when we pray to Him!

Let's play a listening game. Who would like to play? *(Choose six kids. Designate one child as the hearer.)*

I will give each player a word to say. All of you will begin saying your word over and over. *(Name of hearer)* is the hearer. *(Name of hearer)* will walk around and try to find the person saying the word *pray*. When *(name of hearer)* finds that person, he will be the new hearer.

Does everyone know what to do? *(Answer any questions and play the game.)*

Good listening, everyone! Sometimes it was hard to hear who said the word *pray*. There were too many people talking at once! Listening is not hard for God. People everywhere can pray to God at the same time, and He can hear each of us!

After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about a man named Peter. The king put Peter in prison because he taught people about Jesus! Peter's church friends prayed for him. Do you think God heard their prayers? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes, He did! God always hears us when we pray. Let's sing, and then we will hear more about Peter and his friends.

### WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: "Just Like Jesus" *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

### WORSHIP LEADER

People at church pray for one other! Isn't it great to know that we can pray and ask God to help our friends? Let's sing, and then we will hear our Bible story.

*(Show the music video.)*

*(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)*

### BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus*, and *Bible Story* slides; *Bible Story Time* video *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, photos of kids expressing various emotions *(happy, sad, and surprised)*

**Option 1:** *Show the Bible Story Time video and conclude with a short prayer.*

*God, thank You for hearing us when we pray. Thank You for listening to our prayers and answering us. Please teach us to pray for others and the things we need. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

**Option 2:** *Tell the following Bible story. Print photos (or prepare photos to show on a screen) of a child who is happy, sad, and surprised.*

### BIBLE STORY LEADER

*(Show Bible Story slide.)*

I've been looking at some pictures of faces and trying to guess how the person is feeling. Let's play together!

*(Show photo of happy child.)* Look at this picture. This boy has a really big smile! How do you think he feels? *(Allow for responses.)* I think you're right! He looks very happy.

*(Show photo of sad child.)* What about this picture? This girl is not smiling. How do you think she feels? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes, she looks sad. If she was my friend, I'd want to cheer her up!

*(Show photo of surprised child.)* Let's guess one more. This boy's eyes and mouth are open wide! How do you think he feels? *(Allow for responses.)* He looks surprised! I wonder what happened!

Today's Bible story is about people who felt happy, sad, and surprised! Listen carefully. Sometimes I'll stop the story so we can make happy, sad, and surprised faces! Are you ready?

*(Open Bible to Acts 12.)*

Peter was Jesus' friend. Peter liked telling others the good news about Jesus.

Let's stop! Peter was happy to tell about Jesus! Let me see your happy faces. *(Allow kids to respond.)* Nice smiles, everyone!

Some people did not like that Peter taught about Jesus. Even the king was upset by the things Peter said!

One day the king commanded that Peter be put in prison. Peter had not done anything wrong! The guards put chains on Peter and guarded the door.

Oh, that is very sad. Show me your sad faces. *(Allow kids to respond.)* Let's hear what happened to Peter.

*(Read Acts 12:5.)*

**So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying ... to God for him.**

Peter's church friends heard what had happened. Many of them went to Mary's house. They stayed there and prayed together, asking God to help Peter.

One night something amazing happened! As Peter slept, an angel appeared in his prison cell. The angel woke Peter and said, "Hurry! Get up!" The chains fell off of Peter!

*(Read Acts 12:8.)*

**"Get dressed," the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me."**

Peter followed the angel past two sets of guards, and no one stopped them! When they reached the gate that led into the city, it opened all by itself!

The angel walked Peter through the gate and down the street. When they were away from the prison, the angel left. Peter knew that God had sent the angel to help him.

Peter went straight to Mary's house. His friends were still there, praying for him. He knocked on the door, and a girl named Rhoda (*ROH-duh*) came to answer. When Rhoda heard Peter's voice, she was so excited that she forgot to open the door! She ran and told everyone that Peter was standing outside.

What do you think the people's faces looked like when they saw Peter at the door? *(Allow kids to respond.)* They were very surprised!

Peter told his friends how God sent an angel to help him. Then Peter left and went to another place.

*(Close the Bible.)*

Peter's friends prayed for him. They knew that God could help Peter while he was in prison.

You can pray for others, too! People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world!

*(Show Christ Focus slide.)*

Jesus prayed, and He taught others to pray. Jesus prayed for Himself, for His friends, and for YOU!

It's good to talk to God. You can tell God that you love Him, ask Him for help, and thank Him for caring for you.

It makes me happy to pray. Let's pray, right now.

*God, thank You for hearing us when we pray. Thank You for listening to our prayers and answering us. Please teach us to pray for others and the things we need. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

**WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

**WORSHIP LEADER**

Peter's friends knew to pray for Peter when he was in prison. When we know that a person in our church has a problem, we can pray for God to help him. People at church help others. One way to help is to pray!

*Optional Giving Segment:*

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money that people give at church helps others. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

*(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After you collect the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)*

**CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: flashlight

**ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Suggest that preschoolers pretend to be Peter being led out of the prison by the angel.*
- *Guide preschoolers to form a single file line behind you.*
- *Turn on the flashlight and shine it on the floor as you lead the children to walk around the room.*
- *Stop and turn off the flashlight.*
- *Lead preschoolers to "freeze" and say together the Bible verse.*
- *Turn the flashlight on and continue walking.*

- *Stop several times, leading kids to say the verse.*
- *Play as your time allows.*

**BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- *Pray for one another. James 5:16 (Paraphrase)*
- *Pray for one another. James 5:16 (CSB)*
- *Pray one for another. James 5:16 (KJV)*
- *Pray for each other. James 5:16 (NIV)*
- *Pray for one another. James 5:16 (ESV)*
- *Pray for one another. James 5:16 (NKJV)*

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)*

It's time to say our Bible verse! Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)*

*(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)*

This verse teaches us to pray for one another. What happened when Peter's friends prayed for him? *(Allow for responses.)* God sent an angel that led Peter out of prison!

*(Lead the activity.)*

**CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; "Michael and Traci Byrd" missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)*

Missionaries Michael and Traci Byrd want to start churches in St. Louis, Missouri. God sent Michael and Traci to St. Louis to help people who feel like no one cares about them. They started the Faith Community Bible Church. Let's watch a video about the Byrds.

*(Show the missions video, "Michael and Traci Byrd.")*

*(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)*



When people visit St. Louis, it is hard to miss The Gateway Arch. It is very big, just like the city. Many people live in St. Louis and most do not go to church. Christians have not been able to start enough churches to help all the people who live there know about Jesus.

Let's pray for the Byrds and for the people who live in St. Louis. Pray that missionaries can start new churches and that many people hear about Jesus.

*God, we pray for the people who live in St. Louis. We pray that they will hear the good news about Jesus and believe that He is Your Son. Please help missionaries start more new churches. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

### **REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: 4 sheets of paper, marker, tape

### **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Draw on separate sheets of paper a simple picture of each of the following: house, church, earth, stick-figure person.*
- *Tape a paper on each wall of your worship area.*
- *Invite preschoolers to follow you on a prayer walk.*
- *Guide preschoolers to stop at each paper.*
- *Talk about prayer needs at each place or people at each place for whom the children can pray.*
- *Lead preschoolers to repeat the following sentence prayers at the appropriate papers.*
  - *House—Thank You, God, for my family.*
  - *Church—Thank You, God, that I can come to church and learn about Jesus.*
  - *Earth—Thank You, God, for missionaries who tell people everywhere about You.*
  - *Stick-figure person—God, please make sick people well.*

### **BIBLE STORY LEADER**

*(Show Real Life Connections slide.)*

Today we heard that Peter's church friends prayed for him. Why did the people pray for Peter? *(Allow for responses.)* Peter's friends heard that the king put Peter in prison. They wanted God to keep Peter safe.

We can pray for people, too. Let's go on a prayerwalk and think of ways that we can pray for others.

*(Lead the activity.)*

*(Show Life Point Slide.)*

**People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world.** Say that with me: **"People at church pray for others in the church, the community, and the world."**

*Prayer* is talking to God. We can talk to God like we talk to our friends. God hears us when we pray.

I'm glad you came to church today. Remember to pray for your friends and family this week! I'll see you again next time.

**Leader note:** *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*