

PARENT'S GUIDE TO TODAY'S LESSON

BIBLE STORY WRAP-UP

This week Peter and his friends taught us that prayer is powerful. Peter was placed in jail just because a mean king didn't want him to talk about Jesus. His friends and the people at his church prayed for him. And Peter was freed from jail...by an ANGEL. It was such a miracle that Peter thought he was dreaming. It wasn't until the angel left and he went to his friend Mary's house that he realized his freedom was a result of the power of prayer. We can use the power of prayer too! It sure was hard to watch the world change as this sickness made things different everywhere. But you know what? God was always watching over us and listening to us and people around the world were praying to him during this time. Praying to Him is one of the best ways we can show God that we love and trust Him. So your mission this week is to pray...pray...PRAY! Pray for people in need, pray for your neighbor, pray for the police officers or doctors in your neighborhood, pray for your family. You can pray anytime, anywhere for anyone. We're excited to hear your voices lifting up to heaven. Are you ready...Let's GO!

PARENT NOTE

On a regular Sunday morning we have a little routine to show the kids how to pray. If they know the "open them, shut them" song, have them teach it to you so that you can do it with them. Another thing that we practice is closing our eyes and bowing our heads and picturing Jesus as we pray, like we are talking to a friend. Help your kids understand prayer by praying out loud, showing them correct body structure (folded hands and closing eyes), and explaining to them that God is always listening and wants to hear from them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can we pray anywhere? Yes!
2. Can we only pray at night? No!
3. Can we pray about anything? Yes!
4. Who are we talking to when we pray? God!
5. Can we help others when we pray for them? Yes!
6. Are our prayers powerful? Yes!

PRAYER

You can use the prayer below or come up with one of your own. This is the time we teach the kids HOW to pray. We explain that we bow our head to show God our respect, that we fold our hands so that they won't become distractions and that we close our eyes so that we can imagine the face of Jesus as we pray.

**"Dear God,
Thank you for always listening to our prayers!
Help us to remember to pray for others.
We love you, God.
In Jesus' name, amen."**

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ ACTS 12:1-17

1. **What did the believers do when Peter was put in prison?** *They earnestly prayed to God for him*
2. **How did Peter escape?** *An angel of the Lord*
3. **What were the people doing when Peter arrived at the house they gathered at?** *They were praying*
4. **Why do you think God wants us to pray for others?**
5. **Has there ever been a time you prayed for someone and you saw how God answered that prayer?**
6. **Why do you think sometimes God's answer is "No" or "Not yet"?**

DIG DEEPER

READ JAMES 5:16

7. **What does James 5:16 tell us?** *This verse tells us it's important to be honest with others, and to share with others when we've done something wrong. But it also says to pray for each other so that "you may be healed." Lastly, it says the prayer of a righteous person is powerful! When we live for God and we pray for others, our prayers are very powerful and helpful!*

READ JOHN 14:13-14

8. **What does John 14:13-14 tell us?** *At the end of a prayer, have you ever heard people say, "In Jesus' name, amen?" This verse tells us that when we pray, we ask for things in Jesus' name. The name of Jesus is powerful. It also says that we can ask for anything in Jesus' name. Now, does that mean that every single prayer will be answered when we want it, how we want it? For example, if you prayed for your P.E. teacher to be turned into a chocolate bunny "in Jesus' name," do you think that would happen? I don't think so. When we pray in Jesus' name, we need to pray things that will help and show the world God's goodness and power.*

READ MATTHEW 21:22

9. **What does Matthew 21:22 tell us?** *Finally, when we pray, we need to have faith God will answer our prayer. Now, maybe God doesn't always answer it the way we want, but God definitely always gives us an answer. Maybe it's a yes. Maybe it's a no. Maybe it's a, "Not right now." Maybe it's an idea that can solve our problem. Whatever the answer is, we have to believe God hears us and will answer our prayers.*

PRAYER

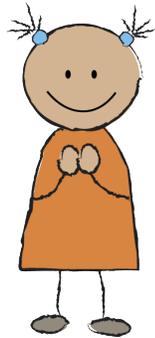
Ask your child, "what do you want to pray about today?" and end your time by praying together.

MAY MEMORY VERSE

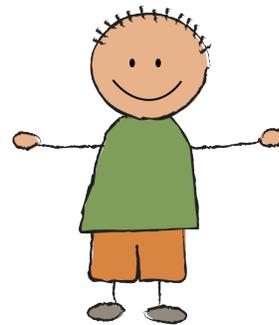
Practice our monthly memory verse with your child using the hand motions provided below.

Parent tip: Say it together twice and then we let your kids pick a silly voice to say it in for the third time. Using voices like robot, baby, Country Western, etc. can be a fun way to engage them in the bible verse!

"Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:20a



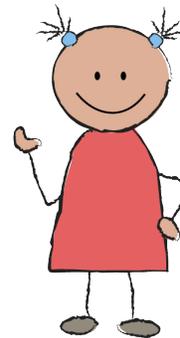
TEACH THEM (*open hands like a book*)



TO OBEY EVERYTHING (*arms outstretched*)



I HAVE (*point to yourself*)



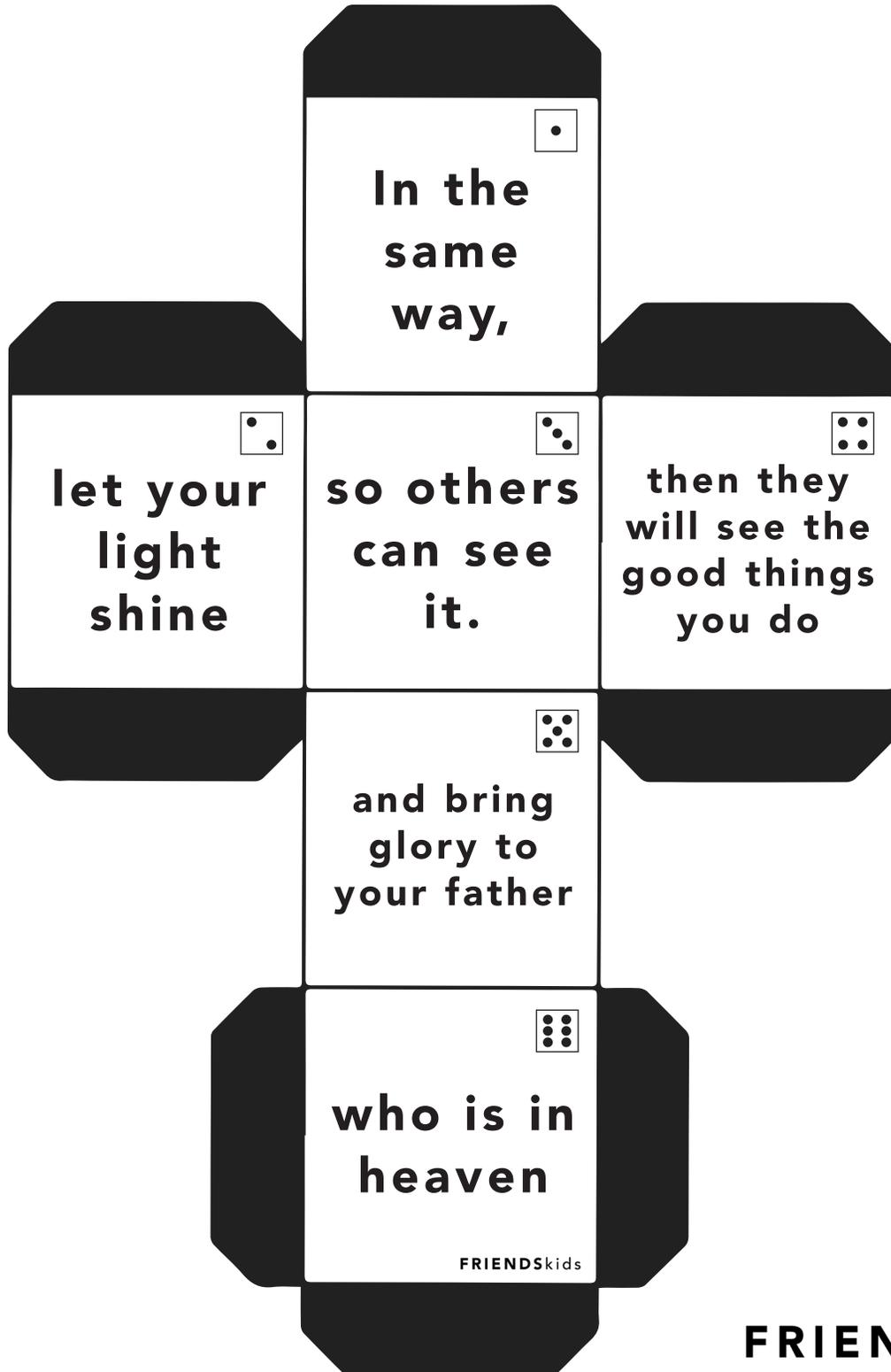
COMMANDED YOU (*wag a pointed finger*)



MATTHEW 28:20a (*open hands like a book*)

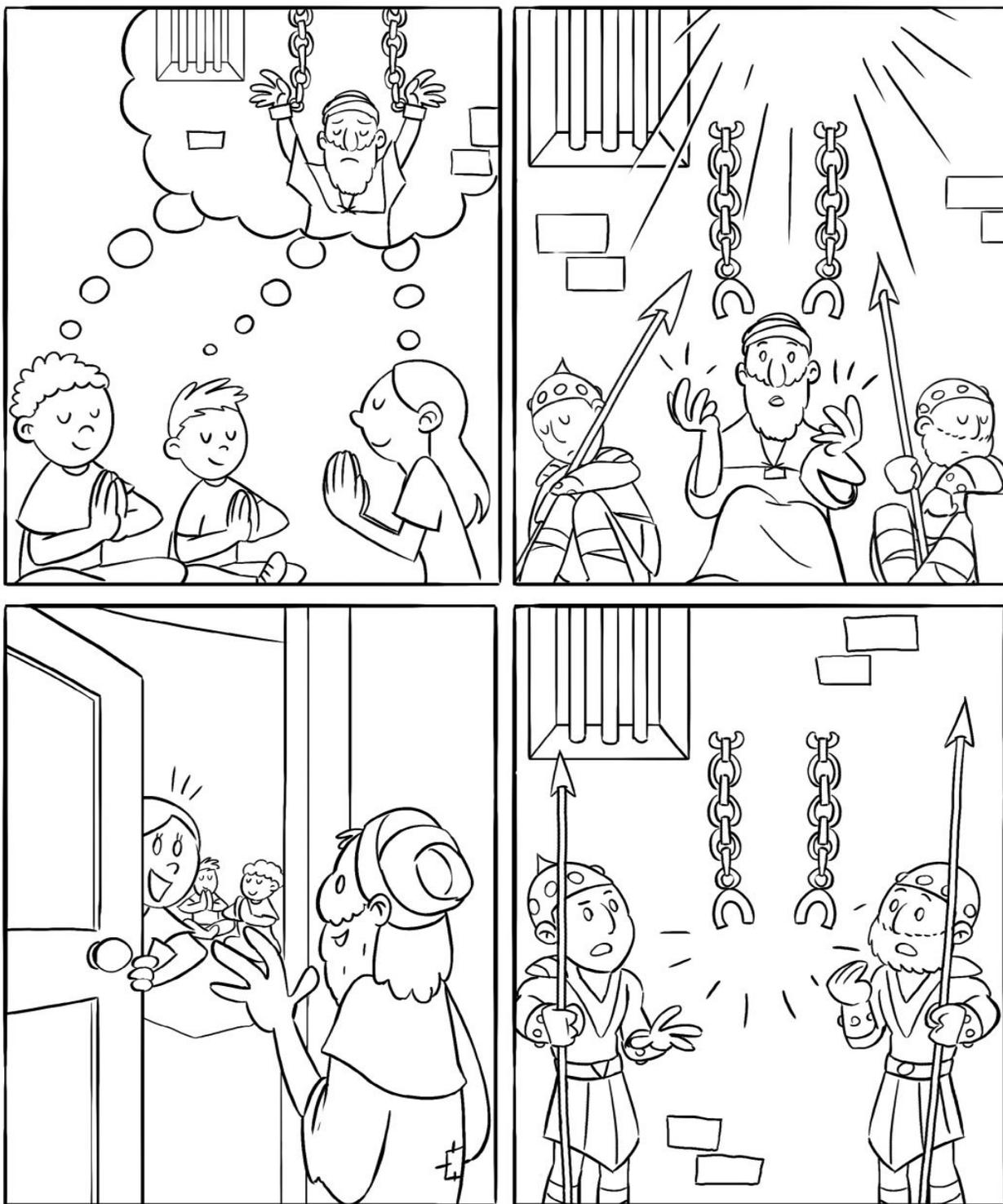
MAY MEMORY VERSE

Cut out the dice template, fold and glue or tape together. This dice is made up of all 6 pieces of this month's bible verse, each piece has the number that goes with it. Players will take turns rolling the dice. The goal is to roll all the pieces of the verse (numbers) in order. At the beginning of the game all players are rolling for the number one: "in the same way". Once a player rolls a one they can recite that part of the verse and move on to rolling for the number two: "let your light shine", and so on, until they have rolled all 6 pieces of the bible verse. The player to roll and recite all six parts of the verse first, wins!

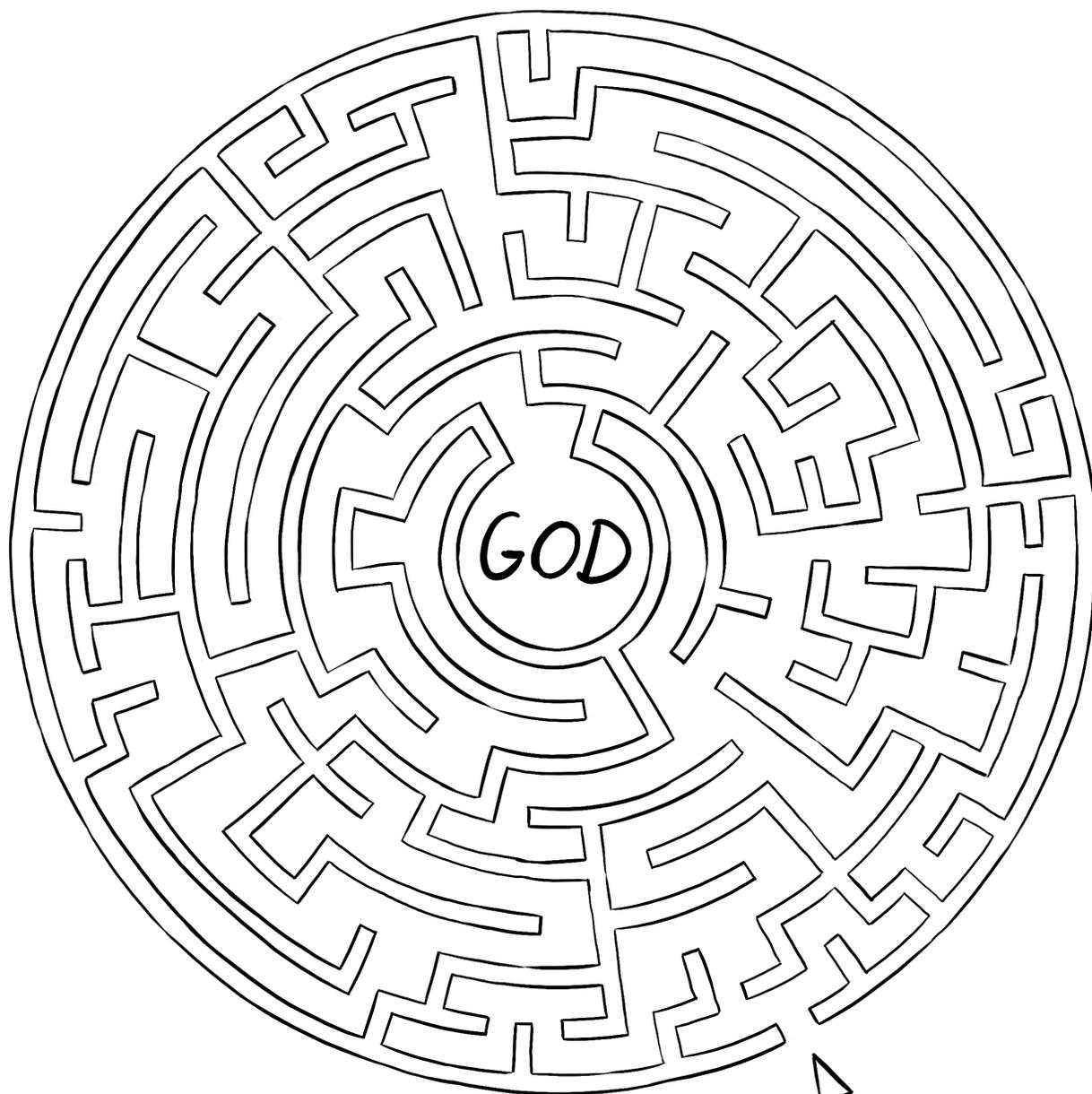


COLORING PAGE

Peter's Miraculous Escape I Can Help Others When I Pray! Acts 12:1-17



A-MAZE-ING PRAYERS



AT HOME ACTIVITY

We are going to play a game called "Catch a Prayer." All you need is some kind of ball to toss. Get the family together into a circle. You will toss the ball around to each person, it doesn't have to be in a circle, and when they get the ball they will say one person they can pray for. It can be sort of a short game, so here are a few different rounds to play! Also, you could play the same round a few times if your child can think of multiple answers!

Round 1: Say one person you can pray for.

Round 2: Say one place in your home that you can pray.

Round 3: Say one place in your community that you can pray.

Round 4: Popcorn prayer!

Close: "We came up with so many people and places we can pray! How cool is it that we can pray anywhere and know that God is listening to us and He hears us! Remember that Jesus told his disciples to pray for others and He wants us to do the same!" Find fun ways to pray with your child throughout the week to remind them that they can pray anywhere, anytime, and about anything. Maybe that means driving to friends and family's house and praying for them in the car or going on a walk and praying about all that God gave us. There are so many different ways to do it, so get creative, and let us know what you did by emailing us or tagging FriendsKids on social media!

Key Question: Who wants us to share their story through words and actions?

Bottom Line: God wants us to share his story through words and actions!

AT HOME ACTIVITY - TEXT GOD

1. Print out the Text God printable
2. Give your child something to write with.
3. For this activity your child can write, draw emojis, or pictures.
4. Have your child think of someone in their life who could really use some help. This would be a person in their life that has a problem they can't help them with. Maybe it's a person at school. Maybe it's someone in your neighborhood or from church. Maybe it's someone in your family. Whomever it is, have them put that person on their texting card.

Close your time by sharing this, "Remember, sometimes the best thing we can do to help someone is to pray and ask God for help! Let's pray for _____ now and ask God to help them."

Spend time praying for that person with your child.

AT HOME ACTIVITY - TEXT GOD

