

Peter: Week 2

October 13, 2024

Message Summary

Peter's journey of faith, as seen in the Bible, is a profound example of God's power at work. From his bold proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah to his moments of fear and denial, Peter's life shows that God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways. One powerful story is in Acts 12, where God miraculously frees Peter from prison, illustrating that God's power is greater than any obstacle. Through this, we see that God answers prayer, opens impossible doors, and leads us step by step even when we don't fully understand.

Icebreaker Ideas

1. Favorite Season and Why

Ask everyone to share their favorite season (spring, summer, fall, or winter) and why they love it. This often leads to fun conversations about holidays, weather, and activities they enjoy during that time of year.

2. Go-to Comfort Food

Have each person share their favorite comfort food—the meal or snack they turn to when they want to feel cozy or nostalgic. This can spark fun food-related discussions and even some recipe exchanges!

Key Scripture

Acts 12:6-17: 6 The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. 7 Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. 9 So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time

he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. 10 They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. 11 Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders[c] had planned to do to me!" 12 When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. 13 He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." 16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. 17 He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place.

Talk About It

1. In the story from Acts 12, Peter was freed from prison by an angel. What does this miracle tell us about God's power over what we see as immovable obstacles?
2. Are there "prison doors" in your life that feel impossible to overcome? How can Peter's experience encourage you to trust God with those obstacles?
3. Peter didn't understand the full plan but followed the angel step by step. How does this story impact your view of taking small steps of faith, especially when the future seems unclear?
4. Share a time when you had to trust God without knowing the full outcome. How did things unfold, and what did you learn?
5. The early church prayed fervently for Peter, even when they had doubts. What does this show us about the role of prayer in our faith journey?
6. How does Peter's life encourage you in your faith? What steps can you take to deepen your trust in God's power and guidance?

Prayer

1. Pray specifically for any challenges members may be facing—whether physical, emotional, or spiritual "prison doors."
2. Ask God to strengthen each person's faith to take the next step, trusting in His plan, and to unite the group as a praying, supportive community.