

## Bible Story 6: PETER AND APOSTLES ARE IN JAIL

SCRIPTURE: Acts 5:12-42

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 5:7, 1 Peter 4:14 or 1 Peter 4:16

### BIBLE STORY:

The **disciples** were healing many people and doing many marvelous things. Many more people believed in the Lord Jesus. In the towns around Jerusalem, crowds brought their sick. They were all healed.

In Jerusalem, the chief priest and a group of religious leaders were jealous. So they put Peter and the apostles in jail.

During the night, an **angel of the Lord** opened the apostles' jail doors. Then the angel led Peter and the apostles out of the prison. The angel of the Lord said, "Go to the temple courts and share about Jesus."

Early in the morning, Peter and the apostles were teaching the people in the temple courts about Jesus.

Meanwhile that morning, the religious leaders sent officers to the jail to bring Peter and the apostles to them. When the officers arrived at the jail, they did not find the prisoners. They returned to the religious leaders and said, "When we arrived at the jail we saw the guards guarding the prisoners' jail door. But no one was inside!"

Someone came and said, "See for yourself! The prisoners are teaching the people about Jesus at the temple courts."

The captain and his officers went to the temple courts. Without using force, they brought Peter and the apostles to the religious leaders.

The religious leaders said, "We told you not to teach about Jesus!"

Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than man. Jesus died on the cross. But God raised His Son Jesus up from the dead and exalted Him as Lord and Savior. Why? To lead all people to **repentance** and **forgiveness of sin**."

The religious leaders were angry. They wanted to kill them.

Gamaliel was a teacher of the law. Gamaliel said, "Be careful in what you intend to do with these men. Let them go! If this comes from man, it will fail. If it comes from God, you cannot stop them. Why? Because anyone who fights against God fails."

So the religious leaders beat the apostles severely and told them not to speak about Jesus. Then the apostles were free to go.

The apostles rejoiced because they were able to suffer for Jesus. Each day and everywhere they went, they continued to tell the Good News about Jesus.

### Apostles / Disciples:

Jesus chose twelve men to walk closely with Him.

They were known as His "apostles,"

His "Twelve Disciples" or His "disciples."

Jesus trained these twelve men to be His witnesses.

They were to preach the gospel, the Good News about Jesus, to all nations (Matthew 10:2-4; 28:18).

### Angel of the Lord

is a heavenly being created by God.

He is God's messenger.

### Sin

is when a person does what God commands not to do and behaving or thinking in a different way than God.

### Repentance

is when a person turns away from sin and turns to obey God.

God gave His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. God raised Jesus from the grave as Lord and Savior.

### Forgiveness of Sin

means the sin is removed (taken or wiped away) by God.

God will forgive you of your sins when you:

- **Confess** (admit) to God your sins.
- **Repent** of your sins.
- **Ask** God to forgive you of your sins.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:***(Ask questions appropriate for your group of listeners.)***PERSONAL QUESTIONS:**

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

**GENERIC QUESTIONS:**

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face? What happened?
5. What does the story tell about God?

**SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did the chief priest and religious leaders put Peter and the apostles in jail?
2. What happened to Peter and the apostles while they were in jail?
3. What did the officers find when they went to the jail? What were Peter and the apostles doing?
4. When the religious leaders told Peter and the apostles not to teach about Jesus, what did the apostles say?
5. Share some examples when we must obey God rather than man.
6. What did the apostles share about Jesus?
7. What does it mean to repent and receive forgiveness of sin?
8. Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, warned the religious leaders not to fight against God. How can a person fight against God?
9. What did Peter and the apostles do when they were released?
10. Today, do believers suffer or are persecuted for sharing their testimony about Jesus? How?

**LIFE LESSONS:** (Choose Life Lessons appropriate for your group of listeners.)

1. **A believer may be made fun of, criticized or even punished for telling others about Jesus.**  
*Paul and the apostles were criticized and put in jail for teaching people about Jesus. In our world today, a believer may be criticized, punished, put in jail or even face death for sharing their belief in Jesus to others.*
  
2. **God is all powerful.**  
*An angel of the Lord opened the jail doors and led Peter and the apostles out of jail. God can do all things to accomplish His will.*
  
3. **God’s desire is that each person will repent of their sins and receive forgiveness of sin.**  
*Because Jesus died on the cross for our sins and God raised His Son Jesus from the grave as Lord and Savior, a person will receive forgiveness of sins if that person:*
  - *Confesses (admits) to God about their sins (doing, behaving or thinking against God’s commands)*
  - *Repents of their sins (turning away from disobeying God and turns to obeying God)*
  - *Asks forgiveness*

**PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES:**

(Choose an activity or activities appropriate for your group of listeners.)

**CHANT: “Jesus’ Teaching”**

Divide the listeners into two groups. Select a leader in each group.  
 Each leader will lead his group to read their phrases in the chant at the appropriate time.

CHANT: “Blessed” (Matthew 5:3-4, 9-12b; Luke 6:27-28 NIV)	
GROUP 1	GROUP 2
Blessed are those who are poor in spirit,	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who are mourning,	for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the peacemakers,	for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,	for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people insult you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you	persecute you, because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,	because great is your reward in heaven.
Love your enemies,	do good to those who hate you,
Bless those who curse you,	pray for those who mistreat you.
Be merciful,	just as your heavenly father is merciful.
<b>ALL:</b> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.	

**Music: Songs of Praise to God and Comfort Through Difficulties**

- Option 1:** Lead the group to sing or listen to songs of praise to God, comfort for their life situations, etc.
- Option 2:** Teach a new song to the group that will be inspiring to their lives.
- Option 3:** Ask someone to come and sing special music to your group.
- Option 4:** Make up a song together.

- ATTENTION:**
- If you need help, ask someone to come and help you with the music.
  - Also, CDs / DVDs, etc. are helpful.
  - Make sure the listeners understand the meaning of the words in the song(s).