
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 15, Bible Truth 4

The Case of the Amazing Answer Acts 12:1-18

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Life was exciting for Christians in the big city of Jerusalem. They shared the good news of Jesus with all who would listen. THOUSANDS of people not only listened but believed! These new believers joined the other Christians as they gathered together as a church. This was so happy!
2. But life wasn't just EXCITING for these Christians. It was dangerous, too. For while the Christians were happy about these new believers, the Jewish leaders were very angry about them. "Jesus is a fake. We must stop these Christians," they said. So, they hurt the Christians and put them in jail.
3. But the Christians kept doing the very things their enemies didn't like. They kept sharing about Jesus. They kept gathering together. They prayed and listened to God's Word. They helped each other love God and they cared for each other's needs. THIS made their enemies angrier.
4. "How can we stop these Christians?" they exclaimed. Soon, they found out. Agrippa, the Roman king over Jerusalem, wanted to make the Jewish leaders happy. Getting rid of these Christians would be just the thing. So, he sent in soldiers, first to kill James; then, to put Peter in jail.
5. "Guard Peter carefully! Chain him to two soldiers," the soldiers were told. "Put two extra soldiers outside the door of his jail room, just to be sure," Agrippa ordered. "In a few days, I'll decide what should happen to Peter. Perhaps I will kill him like I did James," he said.
6. What could the Christians do? Their enemies were getting so strong. There was really only one thing to do: PRAY! "Please, God, make Peter bold and brave. Please, God, free him from jail. Please, God, help us to keep on telling people about Jesus," they prayed.
7. Day after day, Peter stayed in jail. Day after day, the believers gathered to pray. But still, nothing happened. Would God not answer their prayers? Yes, He would, but in His perfect way and time.
8. Time was running out. Agrippa would decide whether to kill Peter the next day. The church gathered to pray once more. And at last, God would their prayers... in a great, big, amazing way! Let's see what He did
9. That night, an angel appeared in Peter's jail cell. He woke Peter saying, "Get up quickly!" "Clank!" off the chains fell off Peter's hands, by God's power. "Get dressed and put on your sandals," the angel urged Peter. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."
10. Through the prison door, past the guards, and into the dark streets of Jerusalem went the angel and Peter. Then, the angel left Peter as suddenly as he came. Peter stood alone, amazed. The LORD had rescued him! He was free! Peter knew what to do next: go tell the others.
11. Peter knocked on the door where the believers were praying. "It's me! Let me in!" he whispered to Rhoda through the door. Rhoda was so excited that she forgot to open the door. "It's Peter! I know his voice! God has rescued him," Rhoda told the others. But no one believed her.
12. But when Peter kept knocking, they opened the door. It really WAS Peter! Then, Peter shared with the little church the amazing way God had answered their prayers. No enemy could stop God! His plans would always win! And they praised God for the amazing things He had done.