

Believe In Jesus Teaching Resource Download: Word Story

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LESSON 1—GOD LOVES YOU

Word Seed: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life—John 3:16 (NIV).

Word Truth: God loves you and He sent Jesus to save you from your sins to live for Him.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: *Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:8-20.*

This is how the birth of Jesus happened. His mother Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, he learned that she was expecting a baby. (She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.) Joseph was a good man. He did not want to cause her public disgrace, so he planned to break his engagement to her secretly.

But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name Him Jesus. Give Him that name because He will save His people from their sins."

All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name Him Immanuel." (Immanuel means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel told him to do. He married Mary. After Mary gave birth to the baby, Joseph named Him Jesus.

That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This is how you will know Him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying, "Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please Him."

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Bible Text: Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:8-20.

The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about." So they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box. When they saw the baby, they told what the angels said about this child. The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking Him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

LESSON 2—GOD MADE YOU

Word Seed: I praise You because You made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What You have done is wonderful—Psalm 139:14 (NCV).

Word Truth: God made you special like Himself to live for Him.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: *Genesis 1:1–2:3, 7.*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. At first, the earth was completely empty. There was nothing on the earth. Darkness covered the ocean, and God's Spirit moved over the water.

On the first day, God said, "Let there be light!" And it happened. He saw the light, and He knew that it was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness. God named the light "day," and the darkness "night."

On the second day, God said, "Let there be a space to separate the water into two parts!" And it happened. So God made the space and separated the water. Some of the water was above it, and some of the water was below it. God named that space "sky."

On the third day, God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered together so that the dry land will appear." And it happened. God named the dry land "earth," and He named the water that was gathered together "seas." Then God said, "Let the earth grow grass, plants that make grain, and fruit trees." And it happened. So God

made the grass, plants and fruit trees. And God saw that this was good.

On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky. These lights will separate the days from the nights. They will be used for signs to show the days and years." And it happened. So God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine during the night. And God saw that this was good.

On the fifth day, God said, "Let the water be filled with many living things, and let there be birds to fly in the air over the earth." And it happened. God saw that this was good. God blessed all the living things in the sea and the birds on land, and told them to have many babies.

On the sixth day, God said, "Let the earth produce many kinds of living things. And let all these animals produce more animals like themselves." And it happened. So God made many different kinds of animals, large animals and small crawling animals of every kind. And God saw that this was good.

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Then God said, "Now let's make humans who will be like Us." God took dust from the ground and made a man. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nose, and the man became a living thing. So God made humans to be like Himself. God blessed them and said to them, "Have many children. Fill the earth and take control of it. Rule over the fish, the birds and every living thing that moves on the earth." God looked at everything He had made. And He saw that everything was very good.

So the earth, the sky, and everything in them were finished. God finished the work He was doing, so on the seventh day He rested from His work. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day.

LESSON 3—HOW SIN STARTED

Word Seed: When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone—Romans 5:12 (NLT).

Word Truth: Sin started when Adam disobeyed God, so you and everyone became sinners.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: *Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-24.*

After God created man, He put the man, Adam, in the Garden of Eden to work the soil and take care of the garden. God gave him this command: "You may eat from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!"

Sometime later, the devil in form of a snake spoke to the woman, Eve, and asked, "Woman, did God really tell you that you must not eat from any tree in the garden?"

Eve answered the snake, "No, we can eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But there is one tree we must not eat from. God told us, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. You must not even touch that tree, or you will die.'"

But the snake lied to Eve, "You will not die. God knows that if you eat the fruit from that tree you will learn about good and evil, and then you will be like God!"

Eve could see that the tree was beautiful and the fruit looked so good to eat. She also liked the idea that it would make her wise. So she took some of the fruit from the tree and ate it. Adam was there with her, so she gave him some of the fruit, and he ate it.

Then it was as if their eyes opened, and they saw things differently. They saw that they were naked. So they got some fig leaves, sewed them together, and wore them for clothes. During the cool part of the day, Adam and Eve heard God, and they hid among the trees in the garden.

When God asked Adam why he disobeyed Him and ate the fruit, Adam blamed Eve. And Eve blamed the snake. So God declared punishment on the snake, Eve and Adam for disobeying Him by eating the fruit. God used animal skins and made some clothes for Adam and Eve. Then God forced them out of the Garden of Eden to work the ground they were made from. And God put Cherub angels and a sword of fire at the entrance to the garden to protect it.

LESSON 4—SINS SEPARATE

Word Seed: The payment for sin is death. But God gives us the free gift of life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord—Romans 6:23 (NCV).

Word Truth: Your sins have separated you from God to be unable to live for Him.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: *Genesis 6:1-14, 22, 7:1-10, 23.*

After Adam and Eve, the number of people on earth continued to increase. The Lord saw that the people on the earth were very evil. He saw that they thought only about evil things all the time. The Lord was sorry that He had made people on the earth. It made Him very sad in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy all the people I created on the earth. I will destroy every person and every animal and everything that crawls on the earth. And I will destroy all the birds in the air, because I am sorry that I have made them."

But Noah pleased the Lord because he was the only person who tried to live right. God asked Noah to build an ark and Noah obeyed God. Then the Lord said to Noah, "I have seen that you are a good man, even among the evil people of this time. So gather your family, and all of you go into the boat. Get seven pairs (seven males and seven females) of every kind of clean animal. And get one pair (one male and one female) of every other animal on the earth. Lead all these animals into the boat with you. Get seven

pairs (seven males and seven females) of all the birds. This will allow all these animals to continue living on the earth after the other animals are destroyed. Seven days from now, I will send much rain on the earth. It will rain for 40 days and 40 nights, and I will wipe everything off the face of the earth. I will destroy everything I made." Noah did everything the Lord told him to do.

He and his wife and his sons and their wives went into the boat to be saved from the flood. All the clean animals, all the other animals on the earth, the birds, and everything that crawls on the earth went into the boat with Noah. Seven days later the flood started. The rain began to fall on the earth. In this way God wiped the earth clean—He destroyed every living thing on the earth—every human, every animal, everything that crawls, and every bird. All that was left was Noah and his family and the animals that were with him in the boat.

LESSON 5—LAMB OF GOD

Word Seed: He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day. [Jesus] sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself—Hebrews 7:27 (NIV).

Word Truth: Jesus, the Lamb of God, sacrificed Himself to take away your sins.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: : *John 1:19-36.*

John the Baptist was going around, telling people to turn to God and baptizing them when they did. So the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" He told them the truth. Without any hesitation, he said openly and plainly, "I am not the Messiah." The Messiah is the Savior who would bring people back to God.

They asked John if he was Elijah or the Prophet. And He answered no. Then they said, "Who are you? Tell us about yourself. Give us an answer to tell the people who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John told them the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I am the voice of someone shouting in the desert: 'Make a straight road ready for the Lord.'"

These Jews were sent from the Pharisees. They said to John, "You say you are not the Messiah.

You say you are not Elijah or the Prophet. Then why do you baptize people?"

John answered, "I baptize people with water. But there is Someone here with you that you don't know. He is the One who is

coming later. I am not good enough to be the slave who unties the strings on His sandals."

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'There is a Man coming after me who is greater than I am, because He was living even before I was born.' I did not know who He was. But I came baptizing people with water so that Israel could know that He is the Messiah."

Then John said this for everyone to hear: "I also did not know who the Messiah was. But the One who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'You will see the Spirit come down and rest on a Man. He is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen this happen. I saw the Spirit come down from heaven like a dove and rest on this Man. So this is what I tell people: 'He is the Son of God.'"

The next day John was there again and had two of his followers with him. He saw Jesus walking by and said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

LESSON 6—JESUS DIED

Word Seed: God sent Him to die in our place to take away our sins. We receive forgiveness through faith in the blood of Jesus' death—Romans 3:25 (NCV).

Word Truth: Jesus died on the cross to save you from your sins.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Mark 8:31, 15:1-39.

Then Jesus began to teach His followers that He must suffer many things. He taught that He would not be accepted by the older Jewish leaders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law. He said that He must be killed and then rise from death after three days. Just as Jesus predicted, He was arrested. Then the leaders tied Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Governor Pilate. They accused Jesus of many false things.

Every year at the Passover time the governor would free one prisoner—whichever one the people wanted. There was a man named Barabbas who had been put in prison for killing during a riot. The people came to Pilate and asked him to free a prisoner as he always did. Pilate knew that the leaders had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous of Him. But the leaders persuaded the people to ask Pilate to free Barabbas, not Jesus. Pilate wanted to please the people, so he set Barabbas

free for them. He told the soldiers to beat Jesus with whips. Then Pilate handed Jesus over to the soldiers to be killed on a cross.

Pilate's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's palace. They made a crown from thorny branches, and put it on Jesus' head. Then they began shouting, "Welcome, king of the Jews!" They kept on beating Jesus' head with a stick and spitting on Him. Then the soldiers bowed down on their knees and pretended to honor Him as a king. After they finished making fun of Him, they led Jesus out of the palace to be killed on a cross.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. They also nailed two criminals to crosses beside Jesus. People walked by and said bad things to Jesus. The leaders made fun of Jesus. The criminals on the crosses beside Jesus also said bad things to Him.

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At noon the whole country became dark. This darkness continued until three o'clock when Jesus cried out loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani." This means "My God, My God, why have You left Me alone?" Then Jesus cried out loudly and died. When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces from the top and tore all the way to the bottom.

The army officer who was standing there in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died. The officer said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

LESSON 7—GOD RAISED JESUS

Word Seed: So, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the wonderful power of the Father, we also can live a new life—Romans 6:4 (NCV).

Word Truth: God raised Jesus from the dead for you to live for Him.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: *Matthew 28:1-10.*

Remember, Jesus had told His followers that He must be killed and then rise from death after three days. On the third day after He died on the cross, the second part of His prediction came true.

On that third day at dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary went to look at the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Suddenly an angel of the Lord came from the sky, and there was a huge earthquake. The angel went to the tomb and rolled the stone away from the entrance. Then he sat on top of the stone. The angel was shining as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The soldiers guarding the tomb were very afraid of the angel. They shook with fear and then fainted.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, the One who was killed on the cross. But He is

not here. He has risen from death, as He said He would. Come and see the place where His body was. And go quickly and tell His followers, 'Jesus has risen from death. He is going into Galilee and will be there before you. You will see Him there.'"

So the women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell Jesus' followers what happened. Suddenly, Jesus was there in front of them. He said, "Hello!" The women went to Him and, holding on to His feet, worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go tell My followers to go to Galilee. They will see Me there."

LESSON 8—TO BE SAVED

Word Seed: Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all the people in your house—Acts 16:31 (NCV).

Word Truth: You must believe in Jesus to be saved from your sins to live for God.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Acts 16:16-34.

One day Paul and his friends, all followers of Jesus, were going to the place for prayer, and a servant girl who had an evil spirit in her kept following them around. (This evil spirit gave her the power to tell what would happen in the future.) This bothered Paul, so he commanded the evil spirit to come out of her in Jesus' Name.

When the men who owned the servant girl saw this, they realized that they could no longer use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas (one of his friends) and dragged them before the Roman officials and lied against them. The officials tore the clothes off both men, ordered that they be beaten with rods and thrown into jail. The jailer put Paul and Silas far inside the jail and bound their feet between large blocks of wood.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. Suddenly there was an earthquake so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail. All the doors of the jail opened, and the chains on all the

prisoners fell off. The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped, so he got his sword and was ready to kill himself because he thought the leaders would kill him for letting the prisoners escape. But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!"

Then the jailer ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. He brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all who live in your house."

So Paul and Silas told the good news about Jesus to the jailer and all the people who lived in his house. The jailer and all his people believed in Jesus. All the people were very happy because they now believed in Jesus and were saved.

LESSON 9—GOD'S WORD PROMISES

Word Seed: As the Scripture says, "Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved."
—Romans 10:13 (NCV).

Word Truth: God's Word promises that you are saved from your sins to live for God when you believe in Jesus.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Acts 8:26-39.

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, a follower of Jesus. The angel said, "Get ready and go south on the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the road that goes through the desert."

So Philip got ready and went. On the road, he saw a man from Ethiopia. He was an important official in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the book of Isaiah the prophet.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." So he went toward the chariot, and he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man answered, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me." Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.

The part of the Scriptures that he was reading was this: "He was like a sheep being led to the butcher. He was like a lamb that makes no sound as its wool is being cut off. He said nothing. He was shamed, and all His

rights were taken away. His life on earth has ended. So there will be no story about His descendants."

The official said to Philip, "Please, tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else?" Philip began to speak. He started with this same Scripture and told the man the good news about Jesus.

While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The official said, "Look, here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" Philip answered, 'If you believe with all your heart, you can.' The official said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' Then the official ordered the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the official went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the official never saw him again. The official continued on his way home. He was very happy.

LESSON 10—BELIEVER THROUGH JESUS

Word Seed: More and more people believed in the Lord [Jesus], and many men and women were added to the group of believers—Acts 5:14 (ERV).

Word Truth: You become a believer only by believing in Jesus to be saved from your sins to live for God.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Acts 10:1-2, 11:1-18.

After Jesus died and God raised Him from the dead, many Jewish men and women believed in Jesus to be saved from their sins to live for God. These ones became known as believers. And Jesus' 11 followers, also believers, were referred to as apostles.

The apostles and the believers in Judea heard that non-Jewish people had accepted the good news about Jesus too. But when Peter, one of the apostles, came to Jerusalem, some Jewish believers (who thought all believers must be Jewish people who were circumcised and obeyed the Law of Moses) argued with him.

So Peter explained the whole story to them. He said, "I was in the city of Joppa. While I was praying, I had a vision. I saw something coming down from heaven. It looked like a big sheet being lowered to the ground by its four corners. It came down close to me, and I looked inside. I saw all kinds of animals, including wild ones, as well as reptiles and birds—animals that Jewish people do not eat. I heard a voice say to me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill anything here and eat it!'

"But I said, 'I can't do that, Lord! I have never eaten anything that is not pure or fit to be used for food.'

"But the voice from heaven answered again, 'God has made these things pure. Don't say they are unfit to eat!'

"This happened three times. Then the whole thing was taken back into heaven. Suddenly there were three men standing outside the house where I was staying. They had been sent from Caesarea to get me. (At that time, Jewish people did not do anything with non-Jewish people, so Peter did not want to go with the men.) The Spirit told me to go with them without wondering if it was all right. These six brothers here also went with me, and we went to the house of Cornelius.

"Cornelius was a Roman army officer who gave much of his money to help the poor people and always prayed to God. He told us about the angel he had seen standing in his house. The angel said, 'Send some men to Joppa to get Simon, the one who is also called Peter. He will speak to you, and what

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he tells you will save you and everyone living in your house.'

"After I began speaking, the Holy Spirit came on them just as He came on us at the beginning on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came on the first believers to give them power to begin their work of telling the world the good news about Jesus. Then I remembered the words of the Lord Jesus: 'John baptized people in water, but

you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.' God gave these people the same gift He gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. So how could I object to what God wanted to do?"

When the Jewish believers heard this, they stopped arguing. They praised God and said, "So God is also allowing even those who are not Jews to change their hearts so that they can have the life He gives!"

LESSON 11—GOD CHANGES YOU

Word Seed: Through [Jesus], all people could change their hearts and lives and have their sins forgiven—Acts 5:31 (NCV).

Word Truth: As a believer, God changes you to live for Him.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Matthew 26: 69-75, John 21:2-3, 15-17, Acts 4:1-20.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter was in the same yard. Three times, when asked if he knew Jesus, Peter denied knowing Him because he was afraid. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said, "Before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say three times that you don't know Me." So Peter went outside and cried bitterly. He stopped following Jesus and went back to fishing. After Jesus died and rose again, He appeared to Peter. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him and Peter replied each time that he did. And those three times, Jesus forgave him and told Peter to serve Him.

Much later, Peter and John, another apostle, healed a lame man. As a result, a large crowd gathered. So Peter and John started telling them the good news about Jesus. While they were speaking to the people, some Jewish leaders came up to them. They were upset because of what Peter and John were teaching the people. The Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John and put them in jail.

The next day the Jewish leaders made Peter and John stand before all the people and questioned them about how they healed the lame man. Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "We want all of you and all the people of Israel to know that this man was made well by the power of Jesus!"

The Jewish leaders understood that Peter and John had no special training or education. But they also saw that they were not afraid to speak. So the leaders were amazed. They also realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus.

The Jewish leaders told Peter and John not to say anything or to teach anything in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "What do you think is right? What would God want? Should we obey you or God? We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard."

LESSON 12—GOD MAKES NEW

Word Seed: In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would spend our lives doing the good things He had already planned for us to do—Ephesians 2:10 (ERV).

Word Truth: As a believer, God makes you a new person on the inside to do good things.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Acts 9:1-22.

Before Saul became a believer, he was trying to scare the believers in Jerusalem, even saying he would kill them. He went to the high priest because he wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find believers in Damascus to arrest them.

On his way to Damascus, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shined around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you fighting against Me?"

Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus, the one you are fighting against. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with him held his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days, Saul could not see; he did not eat or drink.

There was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. In a vision the Lord told him to look for Saul and pray for him.

But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about the many bad things he did to the believers in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus to arrest the believers."

But the Lord Jesus said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. I want him to tell other nations, their rulers, and the people of Israel about Me."

So Ananias left and went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul. Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell off Saul's eyes. He was able to see! Then he got up and was baptized. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus. Soon he began to go to the synagogues and tell people about Jesus. He told the people, "Jesus is the Son of God!" All the people who heard Saul were amazed. They said, "This is the same man who was in Jerusalem

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trying to destroy the people who believe in Jesus! And that's why he has come here—to arrest the believers."

But Saul became more and more powerful in proving that Jesus is the Savior. His proofs were so strong that the Jews who lived in Damascus could not argue with him.

LESSON 13—GOD WITH YOU

Word Seed: The Lord has promised that He will not leave us or desert us
—Hebrews 13:5 (CEV)

Word Truth: As a believer, God is always with you.

WORD STORY

Bible Text: Acts 12:1-11.

As the believers increased, King Herod began to do harm to some of the believers. He ordered James, one of the apostles and the brother of John, to be killed with a sword. Herod saw that many of the Jews liked this, so he decided to arrest Peter too. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. He arrested Peter and put him in jail, where he was guarded by a group of 16 soldiers. Herod planned to bring Peter before the people, but he wanted to wait until after the Passover festival. So Peter was kept in jail, but the believers were constantly praying to God for him.

One night, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two of the soldiers. More soldiers were guarding the door. Herod was planning to bring Peter out before the people the next day. Suddenly an angel of the Lord was standing there, and the room was filled with light. The angel tapped Peter on the side and woke him up. The angel said,

"Hurry, get up!" The chains fell off Peter's hands. The angel said, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." Peter did as he was told. Then the angel said, "Put on your coat and follow me."

So the angel went out and Peter followed. He did not know if the angel was really doing this. He thought he might be seeing a vision. Peter and the angel went past the first guard and the second guard. Then they came to the iron gate that separated them from the city. The gate opened for them by itself. After they went through the gate and walked about a block, the angel suddenly left.

Peter realized then what had happened. He thought, "Now I know that the Lord really sent His angel to me. He rescued me from Herod and from everything those Jews thought would happen to me."