



Children's Lesson – May 13, 2020

GOD LISTENS TO OUR PRAYERS

BACKGROUND FOR CAREGIVERS

Bible Passage – Acts 12:1-19 (Peter Freed From Prison)

The political climate in Judea during the time of the early church was precarious: King Herod (Agrippa I) was ruling over Judea as a Roman representative. At the same time, the church was growing, many people were becoming followers of the Way, and pockets of Jewish “zealots” were forming in opposition to the Roman rule of Israel. Herod wanted to put a stop to anything that could antagonize an already volatile situation. He viewed the apostolic leaders as having the most potential to begin an uprising and started taking measures that would—by human perceptions—destroy further growth of the church. He began by killing the apostle James (brother of John) and moving in what appeared to be a systematic plan to eliminate the remaining apostles.

Peter was seized and imprisoned during the Passover Festival (Festival of Unleavened Bread). Sixteen soldiers were placed as guards for this one man within the prison. Herod wanted to make an example of Peter's death to the zealot groups and messianic movement.

As soon as Peter was taken to prison, a group of believers gathered together in a home to pray for him. God then sent an angel to release him from jail and lead him to safety. Peter went to the house where the people had gathered to pray for him. Peter being released seemed so unlikely it was easier for them to believe he had died and his angel or ghost (as was a customary belief within the Jewish culture) had come to tell them. After realizing it was in fact Peter, the faithful group rejoiced.

“In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter” (Acts 12:18). If a prisoner escaped, it was customary for the supervising guard or soldier to take the punishment intended for the accused. Hearing the news of Peter's escape, Herod commanded a search be made to locate the man. When he wasn't found, Herod interrogated the guards and sentenced them to death.

God's response to our prayers is always filled with love. He hears even the quietest murmurs and knows the deepest longings of our souls. He foresees every need before it's even a part of our reality. God is love, and we can trust His love at all times, in all circumstances.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8a, a beautiful passage about “true” love. God's love never fails—He never fails. Is there something you've been burdened with for yourself, your family, your church, or community? Pray earnestly. Be bold in your prayers. **God listens to our prayers.**

KEY VERSE

The Lord (point both hands to heaven)
is ready to help all those (extend two helping hands)
who call out to him. (cup your hands around mouth)

Psalms 145:18

BIBLE STORY

Today we are going to learn about how God listens to our prayers. Every time you hear the words "**pray**" or "**prayer**" – put your hands together like you are praying – like this... (demonstrate folding hands).

Even if we don't fold our hands when we talk to God - He is always listening to us because he is always with us. He knows everything we think and he hears everything we say.

The Bible story today is about a King named Herod and a friend of Jesus' named Peter.

There once was a king named Herod (show picture – King Herod). Herod was very mad. Can you show me what a mad face looks like? Good job- you look really mad? Herod was mad because he heard that Peter was telling people about Jesus and many people were choosing to follow Jesus. The king was so angry that he had his soldiers put Peter in jail (show picture – Peter in prison).

The people who loved and followed Jesus heard what happened to Peter. So they got together and started to **pray** (fold hands and show picture - people praying). The people knew it was important for others to hear all about God's love. Peter had a special job to do and he couldn't do it from jail. So – the people **prayed** (fold hands) to God for Peter to be released. They didn't just **pray** for a minute – they prayed for the *whole night* long! Do you think God heard and listened to their prayers? Yes, he did!

While Peter was in jail sleeping, a bright light shone upon him. God had

sent an angel to rescue him from jail (show picture – angel and Peter)! Paul followed the angel out of jail, because God had released his chains. It was an answer to **prayer** (fold hands)!

Peter went to the house where his friends were **praying** (fold hands) and he knocked at the door (show picture – Peter at door). Can you pretend to knock (knock on something)? When his friends opened the door, they were so surprised to see him (show picture – Peter with group). They were very excited that Peter was no longer in jail!

Peter told his friends how God had saved him. He told them to go out and tell others about God's love. God listened to Peter and his friends when they **prayed** (fold hands). God heard his people pray (fold hands). We can trust God. God always listens to our prayers (fold hands).

PRAYER

Let's pray and thank God that He is always with us:

Dear God,

We know that you are always with us and you will help us.

Thank you that you listen to our prayers.

Thank you for how much you love us all!

AMEN

WORSHIP SONGS

- God Is Listening – Lifetree Kids Pets Unleashed VBS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88m9vJYIIV4>
- Pray About Everything – Lifetree Kids Kingdom Rock VBS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X05FnYbugls>
- God Hears Our Prayers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABoyVKTPY5c>

- Talk to the Lord
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAuA-hDtJwE>
- The Lord's Prayer – for Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdGld-ZJtSU>

CRAFT

PRAYER WHEEL

Supplies Needed:

- Download and print circle templates with faces and window opening
- Brad fastener (or maybe a paperclip would work)
- Scissors
- Crayons/Markers

Caregivers:

Cut circles out.

When children are finished colouring, assemble the top piece over the bottom piece and use the brad (or paper clip) to attach them.

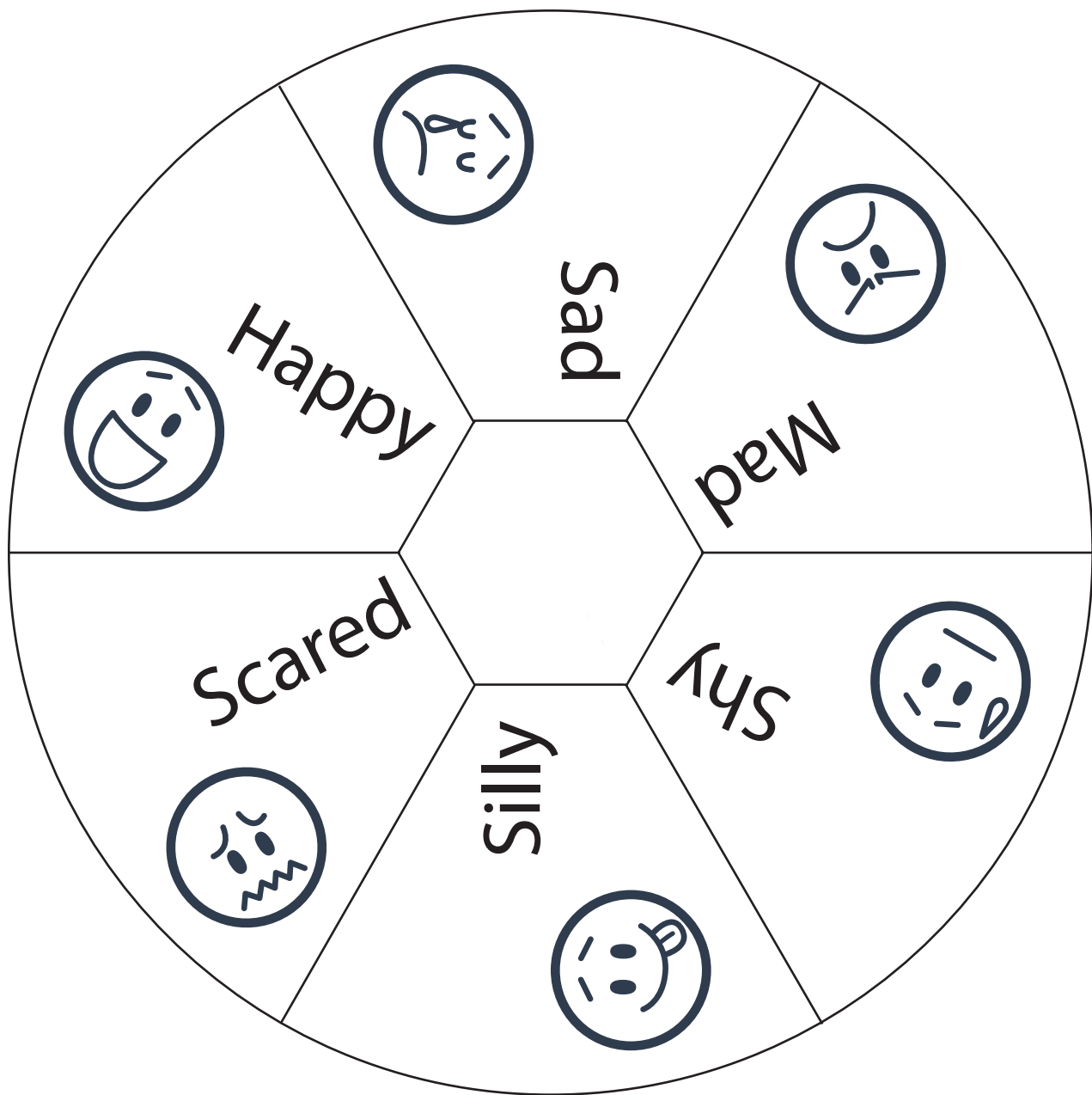
Children:

Colour the pictures on the circles.

Spin the circle and say, "God hears my prayers when I am _____".

When you show your craft to others, say,

"GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS"!



God hears
my prayers
when I am:



cut
here















