

## **Peter in Prison (Acts 12)**

*Peter was one of Jesus's apostles. He had travelled with Jesus and listened to his teaching and seen the miracles Jesus did. He had been very frightened when Jesus died but now he had changed. He had seen and spoken to Jesus afterwards when Jesus came to show his followers that he was alive again. And Peter had been given the special gift from God of the Holy Spirit to help him tell others about Jesus.*

Peter had been very, very busy. He had been telling people about Jesus and hundreds of people had become followers of Jesus. One person who didn't like hearing about Jesus was King Herod. This was a different Herod from the one who spoke to the wise men at the time of Jesus's birth. The King was very angry and he wanted Peter stopped.

Herod stomped up and down shouting, "All this talk about Jesus, I can't stand it, put this man Peter in prison at once and lock him up."

So the soldiers arrested Peter and put him in prison. They put chains on Peter so he couldn't escape and they slammed the prison door shut.

King Herod was very pleased and he said, "Now I've stopped him and he can't tell anyone about Jesus any more".

Meanwhile, Peter's friends were all together at Mary's house. The door was closed and they were praying to God. God heard their prayers and God answered their prayers in an amazing way.

It was night time and Peter was asleep in a prison cell. He was chained up to two soldiers so there was no chance of him escaping. Suddenly, he felt someone shaking his shoulder; it was an angel saying, "Hurry Peter, get up". Imagine Peter's surprise when the chains fell off his hands. The angel said, "Do up your belt and put on your sandals". Peter did as the angel said and God made sure that the soldiers didn't wake up.

The cell door opened for them and Peter and the angel walked out. They kept walking but, when they came to the heavy prison gate, it was locked. How on earth could they get through that? Guess what - it swung open all by itself and Peter and the angel made their way out on to the street and suddenly the angel left Peter.

Peter said to himself, "Now I know that God sent an angel and rescued me. Now King Herod can't stop me from telling people about Jesus".

Peter ran down the street as fast as he could and went straight to Mary's house where his friends were praying. Peter knocked at the door and a girl called Rhoda went to open it. "Who's there?" she called. "It's Peter, let me in, please". Rhoda could hardly believe what she heard; she was so excited she ran to tell the others without even opening the door. Poor Peter was still outside!

At last they let Peter in and he was able to tell them, "I'm free, God sent an angel to get me out of prison; now I can tell more people about Jesus." And that is exactly what Peter did.