



## WEEK TWO – JULY 2019 – PRETEEN

**Bible Story:** *Faithfully* ▪ Acts 12:1–19

**Key Question:** *How can you be someone people can count on?*

**Memory Verse:** *“God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns. Philippians 1:6, NIV*

**Life App:** *What God is doing in you to change the world around you*

**Basic Truth:** *I should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

**Summary:** Next, we discover how faithfulness shows up in an incredible moment that Luke records in Acts 12:1–19. Peter faithfully served God and preached the message of Jesus. The church faithfully prayed for Peter while he was in prison. God was faithful to Peter and sent an angel to help him escape. They could hardly believe what happened, but everyone praised God for his faithfulness.

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## PRE–SERVICE ACTIVITY

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### 1. Just For Fun

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up.
- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the Snack Shack
- Ask kids about their “Gift Journals” from last week.
- Encourage kids to give an example of a “good gift” from God they put in their journals. ***[Make it Personal] (Be prepared to share a “good gift” from God you had last week as well.)***
- Instruct kids to get into pairs.
- Explain the game:
  - Instruct pairs to stand back to back.
  - When you say, “COUNT,” pairs turn to face each other and, using only one hand, show 1 to 5 fingers.
  - The object is to be the first one to add the sum of the digits showing between the two partners.
  - The kid who first shouts out the correct number of fingers showing moves to the next round.
  - Continue to play until only one kid is left.
  - As kids get the hang of it, pick up the pace of the game.

***Lead your group to the Large Group area.***

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## LARGE GROUP

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**OVERVIEW:**

**Key Question:** *How can you be someone people can count on? As preteens start to discover the complexities of relationships, we can help them see how they support others is important. During Small Group, they’ll brainstorm ways they can be faithful to the people in their lives. Everyone needs someone they can depend on, and they have the chance to be that person for someone in their life.*

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## SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Bible Story Extension

#### [Bible Story Review]

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play*

**What You Need:** Five prepared envelopes, Bibles, phone camera

#### What You Do:

- Read Acts 12:4–18.
- Explain that they are going to create a “selfie” of a scene from the Bible Story.
- Select an envelope. On the outside of the envelope is the number of volunteers you will need for the scene.
- Ask for volunteers to be in the “selfie.”
- Open the envelope and give each volunteer a card. On the card is the scene from the Bible story and who they are in the scene.
- Give kids time to (without talking) work together to get in a pose that represents the scene.
- Optional: Once they are posing, snap a picture of them.
- Allow the rest of the group time to guess what part of the story is the “selfie.”
- Discuss each scene before moving on to the next. Potential discussion questions could be:
  - Scene 1: Two soldiers guarding Peter (If you were Peter, what would you be thinking as you were in jail? How could knowing God is faithful help Peter?)
  - Scene 2: Three of Peter’s friends praying for him (What do you think were some prayers the disciples were lifting up to God? The obvious answer is for Peter’s freedom—challenge kids to think what other prayers might have been lifted up for Peter. Why would it be important that Peter remembers God is faithful during his time in prison?)
  - Scene 3: Peter following the angel out of prison passing by two guards (What if you don’t get what you want, what if Peter wasn’t released, is God still faithful? Why or why not?)
  - Scene 4: Peter knocking at the door with Rhoda on the other side (What was Rhoda’s response to Peter knocking?)
  - Scene 5: Peter talks to the disciples and the disciples are astonished he is free (What does Peter tell the disciples? Peter told the disciples to share his story with others. Why does Peter say that? Why is it important to share our stories of God faithfulness? If appropriate, share a time in your life where you experienced God’s faithfulness)
- Allow everyone an opportunity to be in a “selfie.”
- You can do the scenes in order or, to increase the difficulty, pick the scenes randomly.

## 2. Discussion Questions

### [Application Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

### What You Do:

- Ask:
  - What does it mean to be faithful?
  - How can you be someone others can count on?
  - Who are the people that usually think they can count on you?
  - What distracts us from doing what we say we will do?
  - How can we be faithful to God?
  - How does being faithful to God help us show faithfulness to others?

## 3. Verses to Take With You

### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** Cards, markers, Bibles

### What You Do:

- Give kids a card and a marker.
- Instruct kids to draw a shape on the card, e.g. a circle, square, etc.
- Collect the cards.
- Shuffle the cards.
- Allow kids to pick a card.
- Instruct kids to use the shape on the card to finish the picture. Encourage them to be creative.
- Wait until everyone has completed their drawing and allow kids time to share the shape they started with and the picture they completed.
- Read the memory verse, Philippians 1:6.
- Explain just like everyone started with a shape and transformed the shape into creative pictures, God is doing the work of transforming us into the character of Jesus. God has a plan for each of us, and He will help us until it is completed.
- Ask:
  - What are some ways we can be like Jesus?
  - How can we be someone people can count on?
  - What does it look like for us to faithfully work to show Jesus to others?
  - What does this verse mean to you, in your own words?

## 4. Make It Personal with Prayer

### [Prayer Activity]

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Index cards, pencils or markers

### **What You Do:**

- Give kids an index card and a pencil.
- Tell kids to write a definition for faithfulness on the index card.
- Pair kids up.
- Encourage kids to share one prayer request with their partner. Kids can write the request on the back of their index cards.
  - Explain that just like Peter’s friends prayed faithfully for him, you want to challenge them to faithfully pray for each other this week.
  - Encourage them to pray for each other that God would transform them into someone who can be counted on.
  - If your group is comfortable enough with each other, give them a minute to pray aloud for each other in their pairs.
- Close in prayer.

### **What You Say:**

*“God, You are everywhere. There is nowhere we can hide from You, and You are always there for us. You are faithful, and we can count on you for all we need. God, we ask for Your help to be someone people can count on, to faithfully show Your love to others and to faithfully pray for each other. Amen!”*