

## Acts 12: 5, 7-16 – Surprise visitor

Watch this video of the story <https://youtu.be/vu1y-j0p1al?si=p4NTM2OASxwXAPzvn>

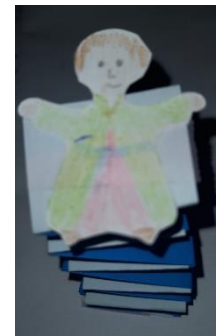


Everyone prayed for Peter when he was in prison, but they never really expected God to free him and were really surprised when he turned up at the door.

Let's make a pop-up Peter. You need a small box with a lid, a cut out person shape coloured to look like Peter, and two strips of scrap paper or thin card approx. 1.5cm wide.

Glue the ends of the paper together at right angles to form an L shape. Now fold over each strip of paper in turn, back and forth, to form a concertina – one piece down, the second piece across, the first piece up, the second piece across and so on. Glue your Peter figure to the top. Glue the base of the concertina into the box and put the lid on. Can you decorate the lid of the box to look like a door? Alternatively, why not stick it inside a folded piece of card and decorate the front to look like a door?

Now when you open the lid (door), Peter should spring out to greet you!



### A prayer for when you have visitors:



Jesus, help me make visitors feel welcome, just like I would welcome you to visit. Amen.

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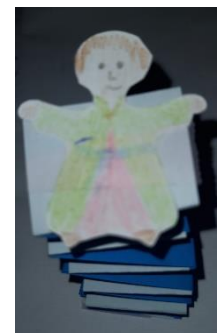


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## Bible Reading

### Acts 12: 5, 7-16 – Surprise visitor



All the time that Peter was under heavy guard in the jailhouse, the church prayed for him most strenuously. Suddenly there was an angel at his side and light flooding the room.

The angel shook Peter and got him up: "Hurry!" The handcuffs fell off his wrists.

The angel said, "Get dressed. Put on your shoes." Peter did it. Then, "Grab your coat and let's get out of here." Peter followed him, but didn't believe it was really an angel—he thought he was dreaming.

Past the first guard and then the second, they came to the iron gate that led into the city. It swung open before them on its own, and they were out on the street, free as the breeze. At the first intersection the angel left him, going his own way. That's when Peter realized it was no dream. "I can't believe it—this really happened! The Master sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's vicious little production and the spectacle the Jewish mob was looking forward to."

Still shaking his head, amazed, he went to Mary's house, the Mary who was John Mark's mother. The house was packed with praying friends. When he knocked on the door to the courtyard, a young woman named Rhoda came to see who it was. But when she recognized his voice—Peter's voice!—she was so excited and eager to tell everyone Peter was there that she forgot to open the door and left him standing in the street.

But they wouldn't believe her, dismissing her, dismissing her report. "You're crazy," they said. She stuck by her story, insisting. They still wouldn't believe her and said, "It must be his angel." All this time poor Peter was standing out in the street, knocking away.

Finally they opened up and saw him—and went wild! Peter put his hands up and calmed them down. He described how the Master had gotten him out of jail, then said, "Tell James and the brothers what's happened." He left them and went off to another place.

**I wonder whether you would have been surprised to see Peter if you were a disciple in this story?**

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