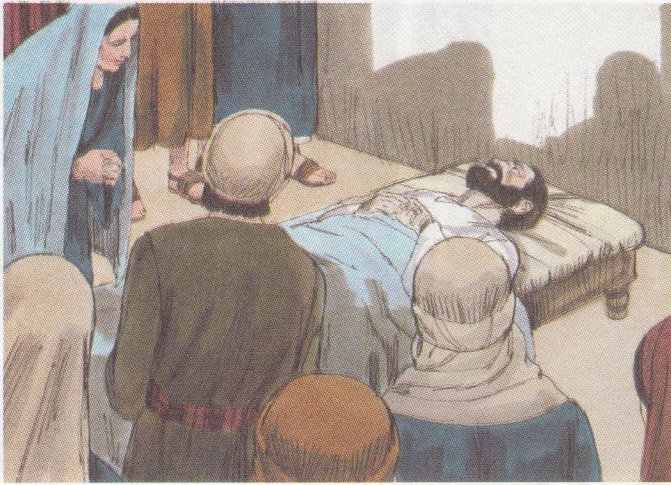


# Peter Escapes from Herod



**1** King Herod arrested some of the believers in Jerusalem. He had even had the apostle James, the brother of John, put to death with a sword.



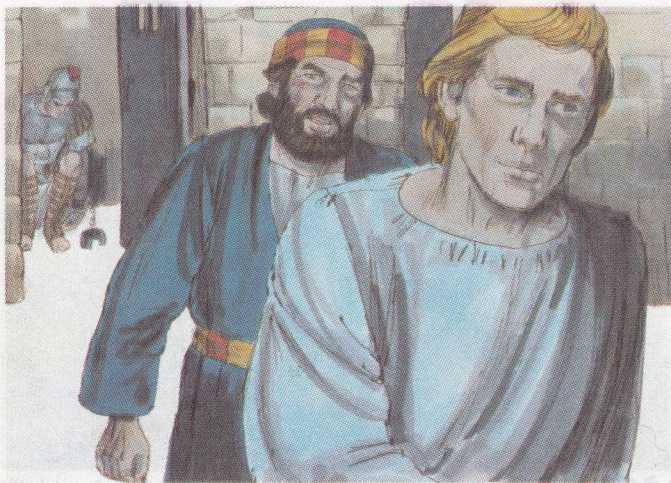
**2** Because this pleased the Jews, Herod also arrested Peter and put him in prison. This was during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. He intended to put Peter on trial after the Passover.



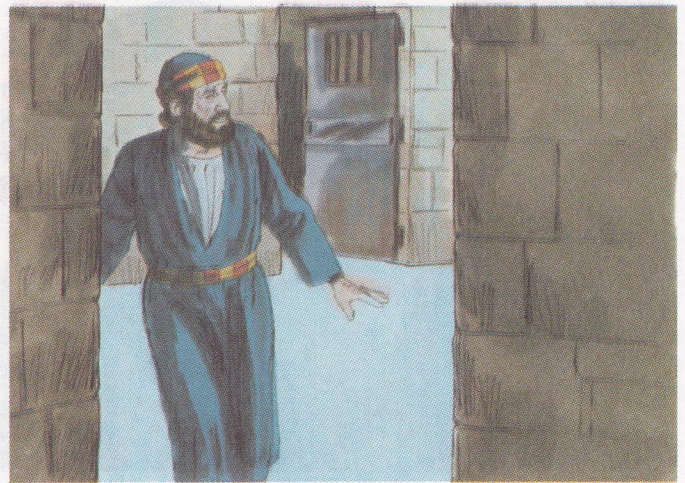
**3** While Peter was in prison, chained between two guards, members of the church were praying earnestly for Peter at the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark.



**4** The night before the trial, Peter was sleeping between the guards. Suddenly an angel of the Lord woke him. "Quick, get up!" he said. The chains just fell off Peter's wrists.



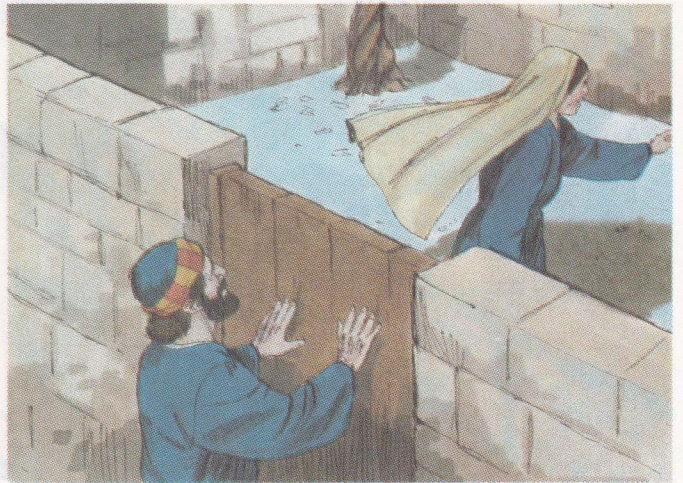
**5** "Follow me," the angel said. So Peter followed him out of the prison. He thought he was dreaming. They passed the guards and came to the iron gate. It opened up by itself!



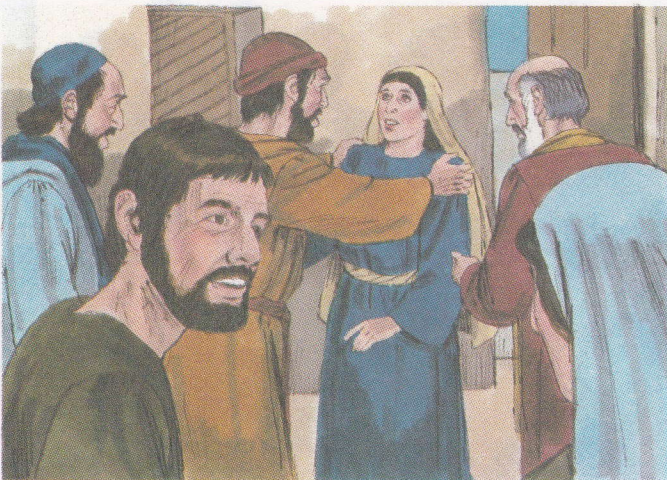
**6** After walking with Peter for a short distance, the angel disappeared. At last Peter realized that the Lord had sent an angel to rescue him from Herod.



**7** So Peter went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where the believers had gathered to pray for him.



**8** When Peter knocked, a servant girl named Rhoda came to the door. She recognized Peter's voice and was so excited that she ran to tell the others, forgetting to let Peter in.



**9** The other believers said to Rhoda, "You're out of your mind!" But she kept insisting, so they said, "It must be his angel." Peter kept on knocking.



**10** When they finally opened the door, they were astonished to see Peter. Peter motioned for them to be quiet and then told them how the Lord had brought him out of prison.



**11** The next morning there was an uproar. "What could have happened to Peter?" the people asked. When Peter could not be found, Herod ordered the guards put to death.



**12** Later, Herod gave a speech to some people who shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." Because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel struck him and he died.