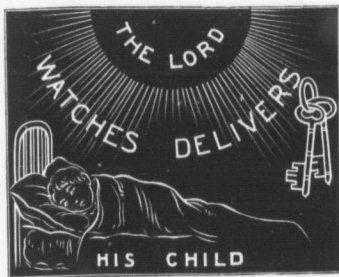


in Jerusalem was harder to open than our prisons are! No, God can open any kind of a prison. He can send his angel and open the prison of Self-will, or of Temper, or any of our prisons of naughtiness, just as soon as we find out that we are there and ask to be taken out. But we must wake up as Peter did, and then obey the voice which says: "Follow me."

[Show the blackboard and call for the Golden Text.] If we love God, there is an angel right near us all the time ready to deliver us from harm. See this sleeping child. She does not know what dangers are near her. We do not know what dangers are near us. God thinks about us, and sends his angel to watch over us. How he wants to deliver us if we are angry, or self-willed, or naughty in any way! Will he do it? Yes, always, if we look right away from our naughtiness, and say, "Dear Jesus, send thine angel to deliver me."



Kindergarten Hints.

KINDERGARTEN DEPARTMENT. Peter Delivered from Prison. Acts 12. 5-17.

GOLDEN TEXT. "For he shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways." Psalm 91. 11.

AIDS TO THE KINDERGARTNER. Holy Bible, Psalm 91. 91; *Moral Evolution* (Harris), pages 375-410; *Monday Club Sermons*, 1876 (Professor Churchill); *Existence of Angels* (Bishop Bull), vol. 1, page 387; *Daily Bible Illustrations* (Kitto), "The Apostles," page 235; *New Testament History* (Smith), page 91.

ATTENTION STORY.

Dear children, our lesson for to-day is a little story about Peter. He is one of our friends who was in prison with John, you remember, and the next morning they were found in the temple, preaching.

Do you remember how that was? We will read a verse here which tells us. [Read Acts 5. 19.] How much the Bible tells us of angels! Well, to-day there is an angel in the story. When we talked of Peter being in prison a few weeks ago we found that the minister (high priest) had ordered him put there; but this time the king, named Herod, thought that it was troublesome to have Peter preaching so much, so he said, "Put him in prison, and let sixteen

soldiers take turns in watching him, four at a time." The very first verse of our lesson says that the people of the church prayed for him, and though they felt very sorry to know he was there they knew that God could take care of him.

Peter believed that, too, and so he was not troubled. One night, when he was sleeping sweetly, an angel touched him on the side and awakened him, and the chains fell off his hands.

The angel told him to dress and put on his shoes and follow him. Two soldiers were beside him when he was sleeping, and others were at the gate, but the angel and Peter passed them all and went into the street. Peter was so surprised that he thought it a dream, but as soon as he had gone through one street the angel went away, for he saw that Peter was wide awake then and knew where he was. Peter thought a few minutes about what he should do ("considered the thing," verse 12), and decided to go to the house of his friend Mark, who was a disciple. It was at this very house that the people were praying for Peter, and when he knocked at the gate a young girl named Rhoda came to answer the knock, but she was so glad to see him that she forgot to open the gate. She left him standing there while she ran in to tell the people that it was Peter. Let us read about it, and see if they let him in. [Read Acts 12. 5-17.]

Explain unusual words: "Ceasing," "sandals," "accord," "expectation," "considered," "surname."

OUTLINE.

Sunday. Attention Story, Bible lesson, Golden Text, and conversation about this wonder story.

Monday. Talk of prayer and of the interest God takes in his children. Jesus said that our Father cares when even a sparrow falls, Matt. 10. 29, and that we are worth more than many sparrows, Matt. 10. 31. To pray is to talk to our heavenly Father.

Tuesday. God's angel was stronger than the soldiers. Try to make clear to the children that the unseen, spiritual forces are stronger than anything our eyes look upon. They may be aided in this when talking of the wind and its power to turn mill wheels, blow the ships through the paths of the sea, and do many other things.

Wednesday. As soon as Peter could get along without the angel he was left alone, and then he stopped to think what he should do next. Verse 12, "Considered." God gives us minds to use, and we are to think strong, good thoughts, and to love him with all our mind.

Thursday. Talk of Peter's friends, the people of the church. How interested they were, and how glad to see him—too glad to open the door! God had answered their prayer, and they were surprised. His goodness and his love to you and to me is surprising. Do you have any nice surprises? Peter motioned to the people not to make such a noise, even if they were glad, and then he asked them to go and tell James, their minister, and the good brothers at the church all about it. This was not the same minister who was at the temple and wanted him put in prison the other time, but a minister at the church where they all believed the