

Understanding God's Deliverance

The word "deliverance" in the Bible refers to God's acts of rescuing His people from evil or dangerous situations.

Let's think! What does God rescue us from? Let's look up the following passages and find out.

1. He rescues His people from their _____ (2 Kgs 20:6)

Famine

Wicked

2. He rescues us from the hand of the _____ (Ps 7:1-2).

3. He rescues us from _____ (Ps 33:19).

Enemies 

Death

4. He rescues us from _____ (Ps 22:19-21).

5. He rescues us from this present _____ age (Gal 1:4).

Satan

6. He rescues us from the power of _____ (Col 1:13).

Conclusion: He is the _____ God and _____ life (1 Jn 5:19-20).

Only God can deliver us and rescue us from eternal punishment.

**He is truly the only
Savior of mankind.**

The Power of Praying for others

WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

Intercession is a prayer that pleads with God for the needs of others. Do you know that you are being called upon to pray for other people—even people in the world whom you have never met? We all need to expand our circle of prayers to include those other than our selves, our family, and our friends.

1 Timothy 2:1-5 says, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus." We are exhorted to pray for others—including our country's leaders, our authorities at work and elsewhere, our church leaders, our co-workers, our friends, and our family.

Prayer is direct communication with God. Nothing is too trivial... or too big to pray for. Sometimes, we get overwhelmed by a situation, such as a sickness or a difficult problem, and feel as if there is nothing we can do to help. But there is! We can pray! Prayer can move mountains if we have the faith to do it!

In Acts 12, we see the prayers of a group of believers answered, even as they prayed! We should be people of faith who believe that God answers the prayers of those who seek His will.

Let's take a look at prayers in the Bible. Read the passages and match what the prayer is for from the words below.

Discernment

Wisdom

Knowledge of God's will

Spiritual understanding

Strength

Power

Knowledge of God's love

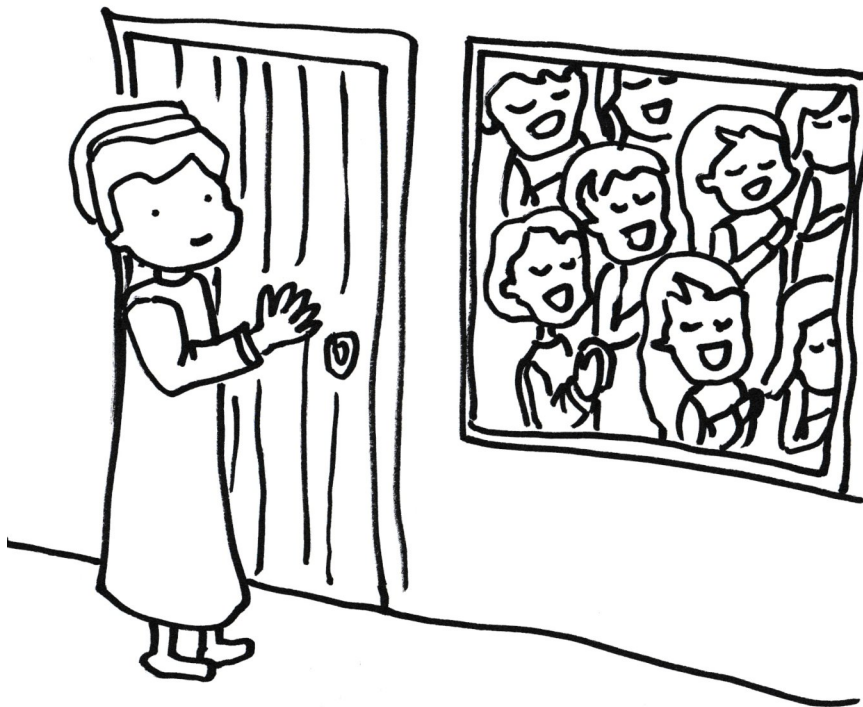
1. Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV) says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength."

2. Ephesians 3:16-19 (NIV) says, "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."

3. Philippians 1:9-11 says, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." _____
4. Colossians 1:9 says, "For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." _____

Be a Prayer warrior!

**God is calling Christians to join in intercessory prayer.
He is not looking for perfect prayer warriors, just willing hearts that want
to see His will come to pass on the earth.
All you have to do is turn to God and pray for others!**



Trusting God in All Circumstances—He is all-powerful and can help us through any difficulties!

A few months ago, a brother had to go to Singapore for a very important conference. He was his company's only representative that would attend this meeting. On the day the brother was leaving home to go to Singapore, he got to the airport and realized at the last minute that he had forgotten his passport at home! Frantically, he ran back to his car and drove home quickly for his passport. On the way home, the brother kept praying to God that he would not miss his flight because if he did, he would miss the conference and potentially be laid off by his company because of this big mistake.



After the brother got his passport from home, he drove back to the airport. On his way there, the brother got caught in bad traffic because of an accident that had happened ahead of him on the road.



When he found out what had happened, he knew that it was impossible for him to get on the flight and that he was going to miss the conference. During the time he sat in traffic, the brother prayed to God again, saying, "Dear heavenly Father, I know that everything happens for a reason according to Your divine plan. Even though I don't know why this is happening to me right now, I know that everything is in Your hands. Lord, I trust that You will guide me in everything ahead no matter what happens to my job."

After he prayed, the brother left a voice message with his boss, explaining what had happened and that he had missed his flight. But the brother didn't hear back from his boss all day. He thought to himself, "Is my boss mad at me? Or is he just busy today...?"

The next morning, the brother finally received a callback from his boss. He was very nervous when he picked up the phone. Surprisingly, the first thing that his boss said to him was, "How are you? Are you okay?!" The brother was confused. He asked him, "What do you mean? I'm home... I missed my flight yesterday." His boss answered, "Is that right? That's great. I'm glad you're safe." In the end, the brother found out that the flight that he had missed the day before had crashed. It was all over the news, but the brother did not find out until his boss called. Even though the brother was not able to make it to his company's meeting in Singapore, he didn't lose his job. Instead, his boss was amazed to find out from the brother that it was not a coincidence that he was not on the plane that crashed—it was God's protection that prevented him from going on that flight!



God Is Our Refuge

Two preachers were sent by the International Assembly as missionaries to Nigeria from January 19 to March 4, 1984.

Three months before the trip, they continually prayed for God's guidance. Many brothers and sisters in England, America, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia were also deeply concerned about the evangelical work in Africa, and they prayed for the preachers every day. Therefore, the Holy Spirit guided their footsteps and protected them in peace, and the grace of God poured down abundantly their entire journey. This is an account of God's merciful protection as the preachers worked for the Lord.

Five months before the trip, one of the preachers received a threatening letter. It was from a former leader of the church in Nigeria who had fallen because of his greed for money. The letter stated that he would kill the preacher if the preacher ever came to Nigeria again.

Originally, the preachers had intended to make the missionary trip in September 1983, but their families and the brothers and sisters in the church cautioned them to wait for the timing of God. Therefore, they decided to wait upon God in prayer until His will was fulfilled in January 1984.

When the preachers arrived in Nigeria, their hearts were troubled and fearful. They knew the dangers they might encounter, so they prayed even more earnestly for God's guidance.

Praise the Lord, because they witnessed the mighty power of God and His abundant grace, the downpouring of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of various miracles and visions during the first two weeks, the preachers' courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel greatly increased.

The words spoken by the Lord to apostle Paul continued to ring in their ears:

"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9-10).

To avoid danger, the preachers decided not to work in the district where that former church leader lived. However, members and ministers in that district urged them to go, encouraging them not to be afraid, for the Lord would protect them. Finally, two days of Spiritual Convocation were held there.

The Spirit of God moved the village chief in that place to receive the preachers. At the same time, they had great cooperation from the local police, who caught the fallen leader and commanded him to return all the property that he had stolen from the church. Moreover, a policeman was sent to protect them throughout the Spiritual Convocation so that the holy work could progress peacefully.

Under the mighty hand of God, during the two-day Spiritual Convocation, twenty received baptism, twenty-four received the Holy Spirit, forty-three experienced visions, and eleven were healed from their diseases. Hallelujah! Praise God!

In the middle of February, the preachers faced danger again but the Lord delivered them. Another leader, who had also fallen away because of greed, found out that the preachers would be in a certain village on February 23. He bribed a policeman to rob them but the Lord moved the preachers to change their visit to February 24—a day later. As a result, the wicked plan of the fallen leader failed.

From these experiences, the preachers deeply felt that as long as the Lord was with them, even in the most dangerous situations, they would find peace and security. On the contrary, if the Lord was not with them, no matter how safe a place was, harm or evilness could still come. The preachers also realized that whenever the work of God is active, the opposition of Satan would also be strong there. However, they learned that they should not be discouraged nor retreat; instead, realizing that God has greater work ahead, they should bravely go forward to fight a good fight for the Lord (2 Tim 1:7-8; Jas 4:7).

(Adapted from Living Water, Fall 1984)

E2 Year 3 Book 1 Lesson 8—Peter's Miraculous Escape

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Multiple Choice

1. _____: King Herod arrested Peter and threw him into prison because _____.
 - a. He wanted to find out more about Jesus.
 - b. He wanted to bring him before the Jews to be judged after the Passover.
 - c. He thought that Peter disobeyed the law.
2. _____: When Peter arrived at the gate that led to the city, _____.
 - a. The gate was locked, so he couldn't leave.
 - b. The angel opened the gate so that Peter could leave.
 - c. The gate opened by itself.
3. _____: When Rhoda went to the door and heard Peter's voice, she _____.
 - a. Went back to tell everyone that Peter was there before opening the door
 - b. Immediately opened the door and let Peter in
 - c. Became afraid because she couldn't believe that Peter was out of the prison

Short Answer

4. Name another apostle who was executed by King Herod.
5. What was Peter doing when the angel of the Lord appeared in his prison cell?
6. What did Peter say when he realized what had happened?
7. Where was the church praying for Peter when he was in prison?
8. What did Peter do after he told other members of his miraculous escape?
9. How did King Herod punish the soldiers who guarded Peter's cell in prison?