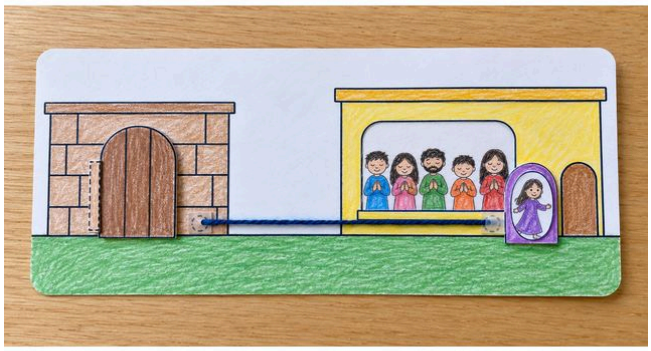
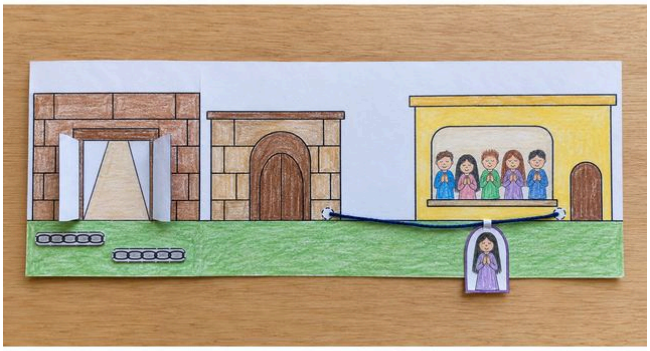
Preschool–Grade 5

Rhoda and Peter in Prison Craft

Peter knocked at the door of the gate · Acts 12:1–17 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished





Easy and medium

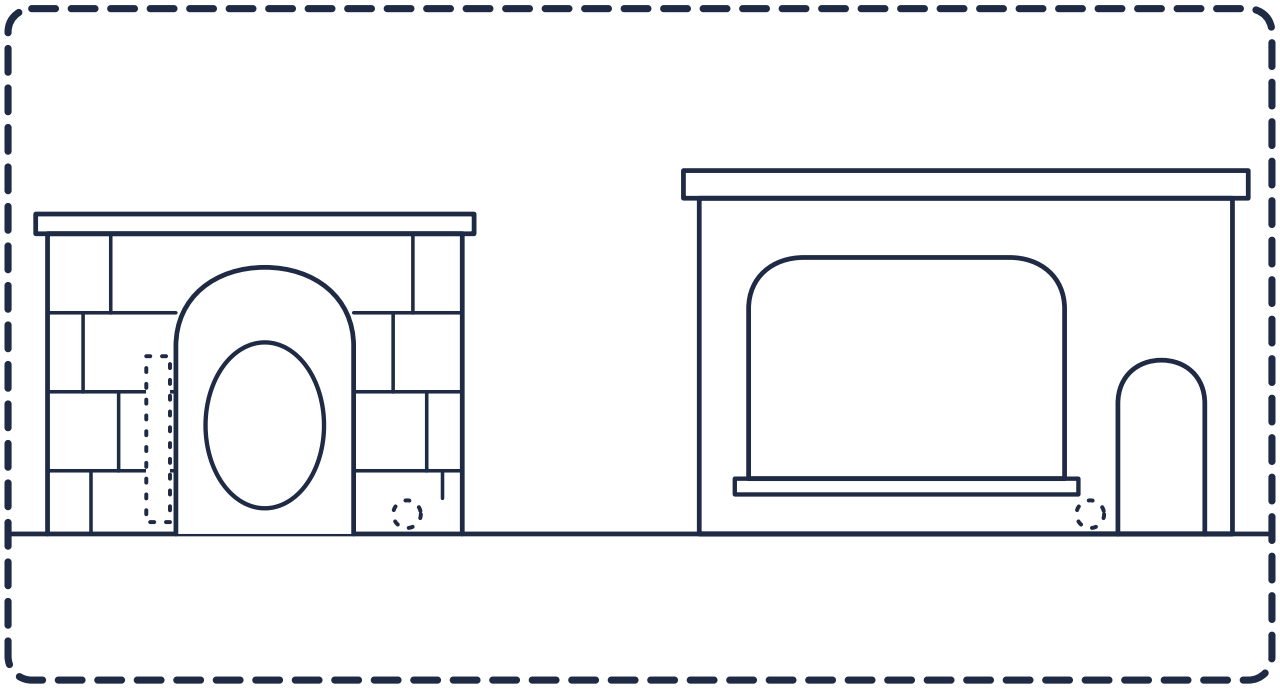
Harder

Both levels are a card with a light brown courtyard wall and a brown gate door on the left, and a yellow house with a brown door on the right, on green ground. Peter, drawn behind the gate door, knocked (Acts 12:13). Rhoda, drawn in her purple-edged piece, has slid along the yarn from the gate to the window where the people are praying (12:14). Medium (left): the card. Harder (right): the same with the prison added on the left, its iron gate doors open on the street and Peter's two gray chains on the ground (12:7, 12:10).

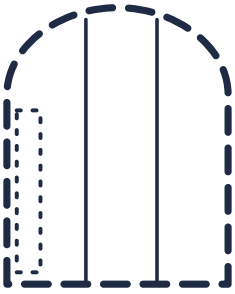
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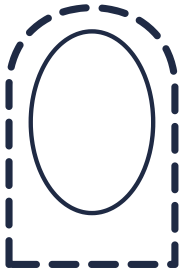
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: courtyard wall light brown, house yellow, house door brown, ground green. Leave the space above the walls, both windows and the dotted spots white.



gate door: color it brown; glue the dotted strip only



Rhoda: draw her; edge purple



loop: glue only the dotted ends on the back of Rhoda

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.
Acts 12:5 (KJV)

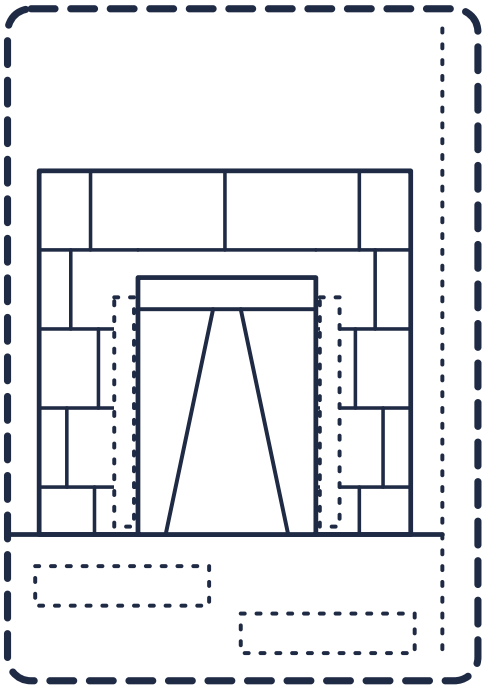
verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

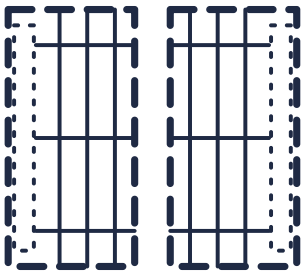
Color each piece the way its label says. Draw Peter in the window inside the gate, many people praying in the window of the house, and Rhoda in her window. Cut out the card, the gate door, the Rhoda piece, the loop strip and the verse strip. You also need a 6-inch piece of yarn and tape for the two dotted circles.

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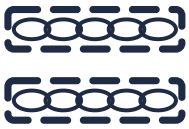
Name: _____

✂ Harder level





2 iron gate doors: color them gray; glue only the dotted strips



2 chains: color them gray

prison: color the wall brown, the ground green and the street light brown. Leave the dotted spots white. The dotted strip on its right edge is the glue tab.

How to add the prison

1. Make the card from page 2 first.
2. Color the prison wall brown, the ground green and the street in the gateway light brown. Color the two iron gate doors and the two chains gray. Cut out the prison, the two doors and the two chains on the dashed lines.
3. Glue only the dotted strip of each gate door on the dotted spot beside the gateway, the left door on the left and the right door on the right, so the doors shut over the street and swing open.
4. Glue the two chains on the two dotted spots on the ground in front of the gate.
5. Put glue on the glue tab at the right edge of the prison and press it on the back of the card's left edge, so the ground lines meet.
6. Tell it: "his chains fell off from his hands" (Acts 12:7). The iron gate "opened to them of his own accord" (12:10): open the doors. Then walk your finger down the street to the gate where Peter knocked (12:12–13).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/rhoda-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light brown, yellow, brown, green and purple, a 6-inch piece of yarn and clear tape for each child, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a gray crayon.
Before class: cut the yarn into 6-inch pieces. For preschoolers, do the easy-level prep below.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces, glue the gate door and the loop on, and tape the yarn with Rhoda threaded on it. Kids color, draw and slide Rhoda in. Help them glue the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids do every step themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card, then add the prison from page 3, with its iron gate doors that open and Peter's two chains on the ground (Acts 12:7, 12:10). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the courtyard wall on the left light brown, the house on the right yellow with a brown door, and the ground green. Leave the space above the walls, the two windows and the dotted spots white.
2. **Color the pieces:** the gate door brown and the edge of the Rhoda piece purple.
3. **Draw:** Peter standing and knocking in the window inside the gate, many people praying in the window of the house (Acts 12:12), and Rhoda, with long hair and a long dress, in the window of her piece.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the gate door, the Rhoda piece, the loop strip and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue the door:** glue only the dotted strip of the gate door on the dotted spot beside the gate, so the door covers Peter and opens and shuts.
6. **Glue the loop:** put glue on the two dotted ends of the loop strip only, and press them across the middle of the back of the Rhoda piece. The middle of the strip stays loose.
7. **Add the yarn:** tape one end of the yarn on the dotted circle by the gate. Thread the yarn through Rhoda's loop, then tape the other end on the dotted circle by the house door.
8. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
9. **Tell it:** knock on the door (Acts 12:13). Rhoda knew Peter's voice, but she opened not the gate for gladness: slide her along the yarn to the people praying (12:14). Then open the door and find Peter (12:16).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who put Peter in prison? *(Herod the king, Acts 12:1–4)*
- What did the church do while Peter was in prison? *(Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him, 12:5)*
- Point to the chains (harder level). What happened to them? *(The angel of the Lord came, a light shined, and Peter's chains fell off from his hands, 12:7)*
- Open the iron gate doors (harder level). How did the iron gate open? *(Of his own accord, by itself, 12:10)*
- Point to the window of the house. Whose house was it, and what were the people doing? *(The house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; many were gathered together praying, 12:12)*
- Knock on the door. Who came to listen? *(A damsel named Rhoda, 12:13)*
- Slide Rhoda in. Why didn't she open the gate? *(She knew Peter's voice, and for gladness she ran in and told how Peter stood before the gate, 12:14)*
- Open the door. How did the people feel when they saw Peter? *(They were astonished, 12:16)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: without ceasing** means without stopping; **quaternions** means groups of four soldiers; **of his own accord** means by itself; **damsel** means a young girl; **hearken** means listen; **gladness** means great joy; **thou art mad** means you are out of your mind; **astonished** means amazed.
- **What the Bible says:** Peter "knocked at the door of the gate" of the house of Mary (Acts 12:12–13), and the iron gate of the prison "leadeth unto the city" (12:10). The Bible doesn't say what the house, the gate or the prison looked like. The walls, the windows, the yarn and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story. On the harder level, the chains fell off in the prison (12:7) and the iron gate opened later (12:10); the prison page shows both in one picture.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws Peter, Rhoda and the people praying in the windows. No angel is drawn either.
- **Keep it gentle:** the craft and the younger lessons leave out James (Acts 12:2) and the keepers (12:19).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, glue on the door and the loop, and tape the yarn ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child knock, slide Rhoda in and open the door.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Rhoda and Peter lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/rhoda.

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