

WILD ZONE

FISHING TOURS UNLIMITED

11

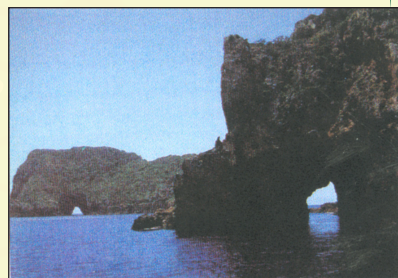


SNORKELLING

Torrance and Cooper are very good swimmers. They can hold their breath under water for a long time. Uncle Maui taught them to snorkel. They had all the right equipment that fitted properly. They started in their school swimming pool and learned all the skills.

As a special treat he took them to Tutukaha in Northland and hired a boat to the Poor Knights Islands, a Marine Reserve. They snorkelled through the Blue Maomao Archway. The colourful fish, corals and sponges were incredible.

"Thank you, Uncle Maui, for all your fishing tours," they both said.



ESCAPE!

Peter was fast asleep. Someone shook his shoulder.

"Hurry. Get up!" a voice said.

It took a moment for Peter to remember where he was.

Yes, he was in prison chained to two guards, who were still sleeping beside him.

The chains fell off Peter's wrists but the noise didn't wake the guards.

"Put on your clothes and sandals. Don't forget your cloak. Now follow me!" the stranger said.

Peter was amazed. They walked past two more prison guards, who didn't even notice. And then the big iron prison doors just opened by themselves. They were out on the street and Peter felt the cold night air.

They walked to the end of the street and then the stranger disappeared.

"It must have been an angel," Peter said to himself. "God has set me free from prison."

The last few days had been terrible. King Herod had arrested James, one of Jesus' disciples, and he was

executed. When King Herod realised that this pleased the people in Jerusalem, he arrested Peter, too. He had him chained up in prison with 16 guards, four at a time, working six-hour shifts. The next day there was to be a trial and Peter thought he would be killed too.

Out on the street Peter was in great danger of being caught. Where should he go? He knew that the Christians would be praying for him at the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark.

Quickly he walked through the dark and knocked on the locked door.



A maid named Rhoda came to the door, looked through the peep-hole and saw Peter. She left him there, still in danger, and went back to stop the prayer meeting.

"God's answered your prayers," Rhoda announced. "Peter's knocking on the door."

"Don't be stupid. That's impossible. We know he's in prison," they said, laughing at her. "You must be mad."

"I'm telling you, it's true. Peter's at the door," Rhoda insisted.

IN PRISON FOR GOD

Others in the Bible were put into prison because they served God. Can you fill in their names? Look up the references in a Good News Bible to check or find the answers.

His brothers sold him as a slave. His master's wife told lies about him. J _ _ _ _ _ (Genesis 39:19)

He had amazing strength and fought for Israel but then he did some foolish, wrong things, lost his strength and was captured. S _ _ _ _ _ (Judges 16: 24 – 25)

He was God's prophet but powerful people didn't like his messages from God. They put him in a dry well. J _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Jeremiah 38: 9)

He broke a bad law and still prayed to God. He was put in a pit full of lions. D _ _ _ _ _ (Daniel 6: 16)

He was the prophet who first pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. He was put in prison by King Herod. J _ _ _ _ the B _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Matthew 11:2)

He was rescued by the Roman Commander from a riot in Jerusalem and imprisoned in the fort.

P _ _ _ _ (Acts 22: 24)

He was imprisoned on the Island of Patmos because he proclaimed God's message. He had wonderful visions.

J _ _ _ _ (Revelation 1: 9)

Peter was still knocking and at last they opened the door. They were very surprised and thrilled to see Peter alive and well. They didn't believe God

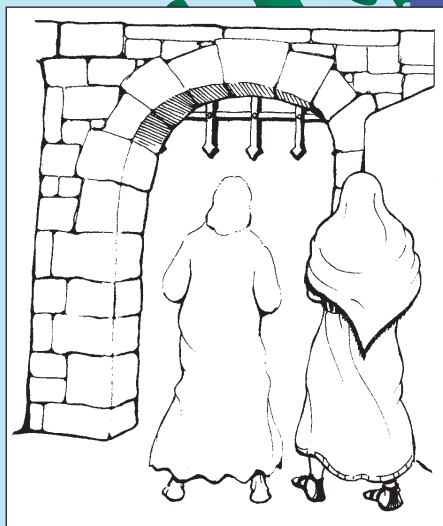
would answer their prayers so quickly. They were all talking excitedly.

But Peter raised his hand for them to be quiet and told them what had happened.

"It's still very dangerous for me," he said. "I'll have to get away. Give my greetings to all the others."

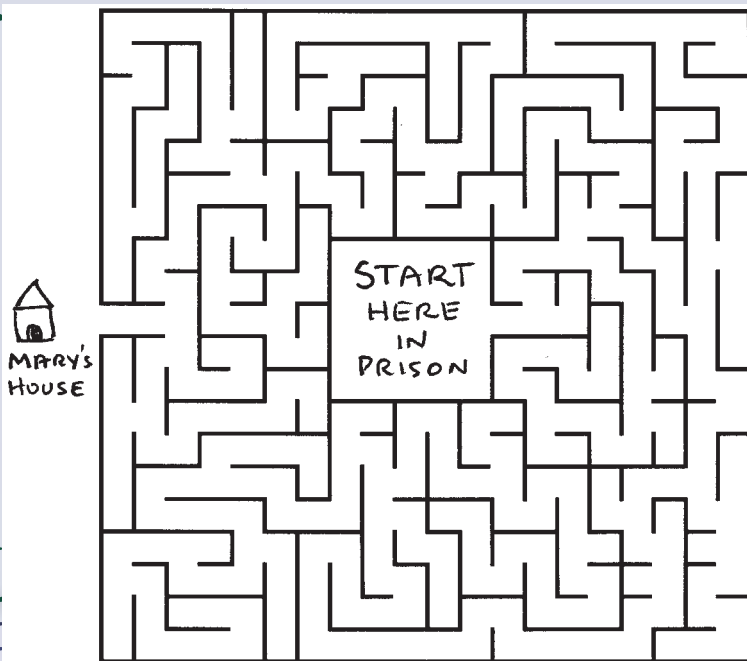
Then he left to go to a safer place. But wherever he went after that, Peter, who used to be a fisherman, kept on fishing for people to become Christians, as Jesus had sent him to do.

Read the story yourself from the Bible in Acts 12: 1–19.



THE GREAT ESCAPE

Help Peter find his way out of prison to the home of Mary.



A VERSE TO LEARN

The words in bold are jumbled. Look up the verse in a Good News Bible to check your answer. Copy the verse correctly and learn it.

You will . . . **arpy** to me and I will **wreans** you . . . **acubees** you **ekes** me with **lal** your **areth**.

Jeremiah 29: 12 – 13

FISHING FOR FACTS

Did you find out that the names of the two main Poor Knights Islands are Tawhiti Rahi and Aorangi? They were made a Marine Reserve in 1981 and given full protection as a no-take zone in 1998. Well done!

After 15 years this is my last Kid Zone. May God bless you all this Christmas.



A PRAYER

God does hear and answer our prayers, sometimes in wonderful ways. But God doesn't always give us the answers we expect. Sometimes his answer is "No" or "Wait", when that is best for us.

Here's a prayer for you to pray:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you always hear and answer our prayers. Please help people who are in prison now because they love and serve you. Amen.

Compiled by Ron Fountain