

KidsPrint

DOORS



STOP! Before you read any further, look around. How many doors do you see? What's behind those doors? Your messy closet? The hallway? The front yard?

We open and close doors every day. But we often don't THINK about doors. Doors can keep us safe and give us privacy. Doors can shut out bugs, noise, and your pesky little brother.

The Bible talks about doors too. Think back to Bible times. It was midnight and the streets of Jerusalem were quiet. There was no bustling marketplace, no clippety-clop of donkeys walking through the streets, no children laughing and chasing each other, no men having discussions about city government. The city slept (at least most of it).

But there were some people who weren't sleeping — a group of people at Mary's (John Mark's mom) house. They were praying for Peter. The Christians in town were being persecuted (being put in prison, hurt, denied privileges, and sometimes even being killed) for what they believed. Now Peter, the one who had taught them, had been arrested and put in prison.

So this group of believers gathered together and prayed for Peter to somehow be set free rather than be killed by the wicked men. John Mark's mom and the others had been praying for days, and time was running out. The men and women were anxious and worried and tired.

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They didn't know that God had sent an angel to rescue Peter.

As they were praying, there was a knock on the door of the gate. A young girl, Rhoda, who was guarding the door called out, "Who is it?" When she heard Peter's voice, she ran into the room and told everyone that Peter was HERE! (By the way, she was so excited, she FORGOT to let him in.)

Guess what? No one believed her. They had been praying for Peter to be freed from prison but now that he was free, they didn't believe.

So Peter kept knocking until someone FINALLY opened the door. You can imagine how excited they were. Here was Peter himself! Right at the door!

Sometimes we think of persecution as something that only happened a long time ago, but many Christians are being persecuted today for what they believe.

When you hear a knock at the door, what do you think? The pizza is here? Your friend has come over to play? Your dad lost his house keys and can't get in?

But there are many people in many countries who worry when they hear a knock at the door. Sometimes a knock at the door means that a police officer is coming to arrest them for worshiping in their churches or for having Bible studies in their homes. We need to be thankful that we can freely study God's Word both in our churches and our homes – without being fearful someone will knock on the door.

For the people praying at Mary's house, the knock was a happy one because Peter was free! But sometimes knocks aren't so happy.

Next time you hear a knock at the door, pray for people in countries who are persecuted for praising, loving, and learning about God.

What do you want to find?

We asked the clubbers at Havasu Missionary Alliance Church in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, a question: If you had the opportunity to open a mysterious door, what would you like to find on the other side of it? Here's what they told us! And isn't Lake Havasu City a cool name for a city?

A wolf
(Ryan)

Narnia
(Spring and Stephanie)

Jesus
(McKenzie and Naomi)

Another door that would take me anywhere
(Brynmary)



A horse
(Maddilyn)



Candyland
(Aley)

A bear
(Mark)



Ha! Ha! Ha!

Since this issue is about doors, here are some knock-knock jokes.

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Hutch.
Hutch who?
Do you need a tissue?

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Cargo.
Cargo who?
Car go beep, beep!

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
George Washington
George Washington who?
What do you mean George Washington who?
Didn't you learn anything in history?

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Lettuce.
Lettuce who?
Lettuce in.

READY for a CHALLENGE?

Figure out the following math problem to find the answer:

1. Begin with the number of rams.
(Genesis 32:14) _____
2. Add the number of trumpets.
(Judges 7:22) _____
3. Divide by the number of men who escaped with Ishmael.
(Jeremiah 41:15) _____
4. Multiply by the number of days it was since Cornelius prayed.
(Acts 10:30) _____
5. Add the number of years until the Egyptians will be gathered.
(Ezekiel 29:13) _____
6. Divide by the number of men who met at Rachel's tomb.
(1 Samuel 10:2) _____
7. Subtract the "age" talked about.
(John 8:57) _____
8. Subtract the number of cities for the children of Aaron.
(Joshua 21:19) _____
9. Subtract the age of Jesus when He began His ministry.
(Luke 3:23) _____
10. Subtract the number of years you sow your fields.
(Leviticus 25:3) _____



Your answer should be the number of ways there are to get to heaven. (John 14:6) _____

Did you enjoy doing this activity? We took it from *The Big Book of Time Fillers*, Gospel Light/Regal Books, Ventura, CA 93006, 2008, p. 58, gospellight.com Used by permission. Available in the *Awana Ministry Catalog*.

CELEBRATE JANUARY!

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5  | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15  | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29  | 30 | 31 |

- National Hobby Month ▪ National Oatmeal Month
- National Soup Month
- 5 - National Bird Day
- 10 - Houseplant Appreciation Day
- 11 - Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friend Day
- 14 - Dress Up Your Pet Day
- 15 - National Hat Day
- 18 - Thesaurus Day
- 18 - Winnie the Pooh Day (A.A. Milne's birthday)
- 19 - National Popcorn Day
- 21 - Squirrel Appreciation Day
- 24 - Compliment Day
- 25 - Opposite Day
- 29 - National Puzzle Day