

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Open your group with a prayer. Use this sheet as a guide; select the points you want to discuss.

GETTING STARTED

1. Have you ever had to call 911? What was your emergency? How'd it go?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read Acts 12:1-5. How does King Herod strike the church? What are his goals?
3. How might what happened to James impact the church's prayers for Peter (positively and negatively)?
4. Read Acts 12:6. Why did Herod use such extreme measures to secure Peter (cf. Acts 5:17-20)?
5. In Acts 12:7 Peter was sleeping the night before trial. What did this indicate about his state of mind? Or his chance of escape?
6. Read Acts 12:8-19. Why didn't the church believe Rhoda?
7. "Angel" appears 7x in Acts 12. What can we deduce

- about one key role of angels here (cf. Heb 1:14)?
8. Why didn't Herod consider a supernatural reason for Peter's escape? Why is evidence of God's intervention often missed?
9. Read Acts 12:20-24. What was Herod's blunder?
10. List the ways the conclusion of Acts 12 describes a remarkable reversal from the chapter's beginning.

LIVING IT OUT

11. How did the church respond to threats from authorities?
12. How do you tend to react when trouble hits?
13. What can you learn about prayer from Acts 12?
14. How would you explain why sometimes God rescues us and sometimes He doesn't (e.g. James martyred, Peter rescued)?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Now I know without a doubt...the Lord rescued me..."

- Acts 12:11 NIV

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