

Acts 12 Discussion Guide

General Discussion Questions:

- What statement or illustration from the message stuck out to you and why?
- What attributes of God were on display in the passage?
- What encouraged you?
- What point of action/application did you walk away with?

Topics for Discussion:

- The Early Church
- The Early Church
- Persecution
- James the Apostle, Peter, James the brother of Jesus
- Prayer
- The Glory of God

Discussion Questions:

? – Life is tough, and then you die. – In what ways could a Christian worldview support this statement? In what way does it need to be clarified/amended by a Biblical outlook?¹

? – Ask a volunteer to summarize the narrative of Acts 12 (or call on the youngest person in the group!)

? - Devotion, Deliverance and Death - Three lives, three stories: James, Peter, Herod Agrippa. How do we see God at work in each story? How is God's glory seen in Acts 12?

? – Discuss the fact that the church prayed “fervently” for Peter. Does that resonate with you? What should we make of prayerless Christians? What tips do you have to help others with their prayer life (making it more consistent, active, knowing how to pray, etc)

? – Some Quotes on prayer to read and discuss:

- John Stott writes: *Here then were two communities, the world and the church, arrayed against one another, each wielding an appropriate weapon. On the one side was the authority of Herod, the power of the sword and the security of the prison. On the other side, the church turned to prayer, which is the only power which the powerless possess.*
- Peter Deyneka: “Where there is much prayer, there is much power. Where there is little prayer, there is little power. Where there is no prayer, there is no power.”
- When there is much prayer, there is much victory and much success in Christian work. If Christian workers do not take time to pray, they will lack the power of God no matter how talented or gifted they might be. We must be praying men and women! A deep burden for others always results in much prayer.

? – Talk about Rhoda 😊

¹ Christ offers abundant life – but He doesn't promise an easy life. Jesus actually told us that just the opposite would be the case... YET - Although those who put their faith in Jesus may not be delivered from suffering and death in this world, they can be confident that they will be victorious! Christians are able to suffer persecution knowing their God will triumph, He WILL build His church and His Kingdom WILL come!

? - When they saw Peter, they were astonished – God does that you know – How about this for Small groups: what astonishes you?

- What act of God in Scripture just blows your mind?
- What answer to Prayer that you've seen?
- What in God's creation astonishes you and puts you in awe?
- What attribute of God makes you bury your head in your hands – or throw your hands up in praise!?

? – Why was Herod Agrippa “struck down” (and eaten by worms!) what was his fatal mistake(s)

? – What Scripture can you recall (or find w/ a quick search) regarding the call to glorify God?

? – Discuss the Westminster Catechism's statement that “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever”