

Here are some talking points to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful discussion. **Start Thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why? **Talking About the** conversations; remember, you want others to do most of the talking. **NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.**

**Background:** There is the natural world, that which we can see, and the unseen or spiritual world, that which we cannot see. God works in the supernatural world, operating “behind the scenes.” Though we can’t see them (normally), there are angels ministering to us.

**The Scene:** It is tough times for the church. They are under persecution from Herod who is harassing leaders of the church. He had Jame beheaded and has imprisoned Peter, in order, to do the same during the Passover.

1. According to Acts 12:5, what was the church doing? **A.** Constantly praying for Peter. Given their current circumstances, what question might they have been asking? **A.** “God, why are these things happening?” And they may have been wondering if prayer works. Discussion question: Do we ever ask God, “why is this happening,” and wonder if prayer works?
2. According to verse 6, Peter gets out of prison the night before Herod is going to have him beheaded. What does this indicate about God’s timing? **A.** God may not do things when we want Him to, but He is never late. Discussion question: Do we ever question God’s timing with regards to our deliverance from life’s trials?
3. In verse 8, there are details about the instructions the angel gives Peter. What is the application of these details for us? **A.** God is involved in our lives and is concerned about the smallest details. Nothing in our lives is insignificant.
4. **What was main point number 1?** **A.** Prayer summons God’s help from heaven for our lives.
5. In the Greek, what does the term Angel mean? And part 2, what are angels? **A.** 1. Messenger; 2. Spirit beings. Angels are invisible (normally) created beings who are spirits sent to minister to believers. They are not male or female, but when mentioned are referred to by the male gender. We don’t know precisely how many angels there are, but there are a “multitude.”
6. Who are the two named angels and what do they do? **A.** Micheal, the Arch angel, is the head over all the angels and is guardian over Israel. He’ll be involved in the rapture (2Thes1:7); Gabriel, who performs messenger duties and is mentioned 4 times in the bible, appearing to Daniel and Mary.
7. What are the two classes of Angels and what are their duties? **A.** Cherubim and Seraphim (burning ones). Cherubim are primarily guards or attendants to God’s throne. Seraphim attend God’s throne and praise Him.
8. Ministering Angels. Where do we see angels ministering to Jesus? **A.** After the temptations (Matt 4:11), and in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:43). Where did the angels not appear? **A.** At the cross. Jesus was on His own. Angels did appear at the ascension of Jesus – Acts 1:9-11
9. With regards to angels, what don’t believers do? **A.** We don’t worship them. Col 2:18 & Rev 22:8-9
10. Why is it important to entertain or show hospitality to strangers? **A.** They may be angels. Heb 13:2
11. Despite praying for Peter’s release, what was the reaction by those praying when they opened the door and saw Peter? **A.** Verse 12:16 – they were “astonished” (amazed, astounded). Application: We have no idea what our prayers are accomplishing.
12. **What was main point number 2?** **A.** When is all falls through, God comes through. We must learn to trust God and accept that we, in this lifetime, may never get answers to our “why Lord” questions.

Talk to your group about (1) creating profiles on the Calvary App so your group can create a group chat on the app. Let Pastor Josh know so he can set your group up for you. (3) Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 3

discussion | study

Help From Heaven – God's Holy Angels

Acts 12:1-12

Pastor Josh