



## COMPELLED PART 1: COMPELLED TO PRAY

"Miracles are the byproduct of prayers prayed by you or for you. That should be all the motivation you need to pray." - Mark Batterson

**BIG IDEA: Prayer isn't the only thing we CAN do but it is the first thing we SHOULD do.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one of the wildest answers to prayer you have ever heard of or experienced? Have you ever given up on a prayer? If so, why?
2. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Acts 12:5-11*

*But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!" - Acts 12:5-11 (NLT)*

3. What was the church doing while Peter was in prison? How impossible was Peter's situation?
4. Acts 12:15 makes us understand that the disciples were "men and women of doubt and unbelief" just like us. Have you ever doubted God would answer your prayers? How can we turn doubt into believing faith?
5. Why is prayer important? Does prayer change things (James 5:16; Philippians 2:27)? What happens if we do not pray?
6. In the message, Carlo said, "Sometimes the answer is 'yes'. Sometimes it's 'no'. Sometimes it's 'not yet'. And sometimes it's... 'something better.' Either way, expect an answer!" Do we always receive what we pray for? What are some reasons we do not (Isaiah 55:1-2; James 4:1-6)?
7. In the message, Carlo gave 4 practical ways that we can live out the Big Idea: Pray regularly, Pray relationally, Pray expectantly, and Pray actively. How else can we make faith-filled prayer a regular part of our lives?

### MOVING FORWARD

What are some things that you need to be praying about today? Take time to "cast those cares upon Him" in prayer. What can you do this week to develop a healthy prayer life?

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!" When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. He knocked at the door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is standing at the door!" "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel." Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the door and saw him, they were amazed. He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened,"*

*Acts 12:11-16 (NLT)*