Reflecting on Acts 12 | July 3, 2022 Questions for Personal Study and Discussion

Note: Some questions are adapted from Tony Merida's commentary, "Exalting Jesus in Acts"

1.	. Read Acts 12:1-5. In these verses, we discover that
	Herod attacks the followers of Jesus with "violent hands"
	and even seeks to kill some of them with the sword.

•	How did God's people respond to this serious threat,
	and particularly Peter's arrest?

 What does this passage teach us about the importance of prayer in times of trial and persecution?

 What are some other steps may we be tempted to take in the face of opposition (e.g., Peter in Luke 22:49-51)? What makes prayer superior to these reactions?

- 2. **Read Acts 12:6, John 14:27, and Philippians 4:6-7.**After James is beheaded, Herod arrests Peter and plans to kill him as well. Despite this, Peter spends the night before his execution, "sleeping between two soldiers." As one commentator explains, "Peter was guarded by soldiers, but his heart was guarded by God."
 - What does this story teach us about the peace of God?

 How have you seen the peace of God evidenced in your life or the life of someone else from our church?
How might you encourage someone who is lacking peace in his or her life?

3.	Read Acts 12:1-3, 20-24. In both the opening and
	closing of this chapter, we find Herod seeking to exalt
	himself in the sight of other people.

• What does it mean to exalt oneself?

• How can we fight the temptation to exalt ourselves?

- 4. **Read Acts 12:1-24.** One pastor observes that this story contains both an execution and an escape. In reality, life includes both triumphs and tragedies.
 - What does this story teach us about the connection between God's sovereignty and hope?

 Read through Romans 8:31-39. Take some time to reflect on this passage in light of the events in Acts 12. Then pray through this passage to close your Life Group.