

Discussion Questions
May 31, 2026 | Acts 12:1-24
Set Me Free

UPWARDS – Growing in Our Relationship with God

1. Peter's situation reached its darkest point the night before Herod planned to bring him to trial (v. 6), yet he could not see how God was at work. How does what happened to him encourage us to trust and rest in God's timing and care?
2. After James was murdered, the church did not abandon prayer in despair but continued to pray earnestly for Peter (v. 5). How does their response encourage us to keep seeking God and His care in prayer, even in difficult circumstances?
3. In Psalm 73:6–7, the psalmist is troubled by the prosperity of the wicked and the suffering of God's people, yet he brings his struggle honestly before God. How does his example encourage us to bring our own concerns and specific needs to God in prayer, trusting in His care?

INWARDS – Growing in Fellowship with One Another

4. In this passage, Peter was delivered from death, while James entered the presence of Christ through death. Yet both were secure in God's hands. How does this encourage us to trust God's power to deliver while humbly submitting to His sovereign will and timing regarding the outcome?
5. The church was earnestly praying for Peter while he was in prison (v. 5), yet they did not know how God would answer. When you find yourself in the "space between prayer and answer," how does focusing on God's faithful character help you persevere in prayer rather than becoming consumed by your circumstances?
6. How does the church's earnest prayer (v. 5) encourage us, when we feel trapped, threatened, or powerless, not to panic, withdraw, or try to take control, but instead to trust God's care and seek Him in prayer?

OUTWARDS – Reaching Those Around Us

7. At the beginning of the chapter, Herod seems to have the final say, but by the end, Herod is dead and the Word of God is flourishing (v. 24). How does this encourage us to trust God's sovereignty and ultimate purposes?
8. Peter was found sleeping on the very night Herod intended to bring him to trial (v. 6). How does "resting in God's timing" serve as an act of trust in the God who holds us?
9. While Herod wielded great power, the church responded with earnest prayer (vv. 5, 12). What does relying on prayer instead of worldly power reveal about our true hope, and how does this witness to others?