

Family Discipleship Resource

Mar 8-14

(Acts 12:1-17)



G – Gather for Prayer

Father,

You are a God who delivers! You are a God who answers prayer! I pray that you bring deliverance to this in need of it today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

R – Read the Text (Acts 12:1-17)

Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. ² And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. ³ When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people. ⁵ So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

⁶ On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." ¹² And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.

O – Observe what God has said

What pressures/persecution did the church face in Acts 12:1-4?

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How does the church respond?

How are people tempted to respond to difficulty today? Why is prayer an important FIRST step?

Why do you suppose it took a while for the people to believe what had happened?

W – Work on Application

Pray, pray, pray. Pray fervently, pray consistently, pray faithfully, pray for deliverance. Later, Paul will write “Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6). Elsewhere he will say “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess 5:17). Peter, (yes, the same one in this passage) will write “cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). May we be found praying and may we expect God to move mightily to deliver in accordance with his will and mission.

What steps will you take this week to grow in your prayer life?

Who can we pray for right now that is in need of deliverance?

Family Weekly Memory Verse: So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God..” Acts 12:5