

CVC SERMON OUTLINE & LIFE GROUP GUIDE

ACTS 12: When God Breaks Through

Q: “Have you ever had a situation where you thought, ‘There’s no way this is going to work out’—and then somehow it did?”

Read: Acts 12:1–11 As you read, notice:

- James is killed. Peter is arrested. Peter is heavily guarded. The church is praying.
- God sends an angel. Peter's chains fall off. The prison doors open. Peter walks out.

Discussion: “What stood out to you most from this part of the story?”

Follow-up questions:

- What do you think Peter was feeling in prison?
- What do you notice about Peter's posture while he is waiting?
- What do you notice about the church's response?
- Why do you think God allowed James to die but rescued Peter?
- What does this teach us about God's sovereignty?

Faithfulness to God does not guarantee a trouble-free life.

James was faithful and suffered. Peter was faithful and was delivered.

We shouldn't measure God's faithfulness by our circumstances.

God is still God when the situation looks completely out of control.

Read: Acts 12:5 “So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.”

“What do you think the church could actually do about Peter's situation?”

The answer: They couldn't overpower Herod. They couldn't defeat the guards. They couldn't open the prison.

But they could pray.

“What's the difference between worrying about a situation and praying about a situation?”

“What is one situation in your life right now that you cannot fix, control, or change?”

“What would it look like to move that situation from your hands into God's hands?”

Prayer doesn't deny reality. Prayer brings reality before God.

Read: Acts 12:6–11 “What stood out to you about Peter's response while he was waiting?”

Peter didn't know what God was going to do. Yet he was resting.

Discussion

- What do you think allowed Peter to rest in that moment?
- What does it look like to “rest” in God when you don't know the outcome?
- Where are you currently trying to force a door open?
- What might trusting God look like in that situation?

What is impossible for us is never impossible for God.

Sometimes faith means: **Waiting , Praying, Resting**

“Which one of those is hardest for you?”

Read: Acts 12:12–17 “What's funny or surprising about the way the church responds to Peter's arrival?”

Our faith may be imperfect, but God's power is not.

We don't have to wait until our faith feels perfect before we pray.

We can bring: Our doubts, Our fears, Our questions, Our disappointment, Our small faith

“Have you ever been afraid to pray because you weren't sure God would answer the way you wanted?”

Read: Acts 12:18–25 “Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread, and there were many new believers.” — Acts 12:24

“What stands out about the contrast between Herod and God?”

“Why do you think Acts ends the chapter by saying that the Word of God continued to spread?”

Key Truth: People can oppose God's people, but they cannot stop God's purposes.

“Where are you tempted to focus more on what people are doing than on what God is doing?”

“What is something in your life that God has given you—an ability, opportunity, relationship, resource, influence, or success—that you need to give Him glory for?”

Where Do You Need to Trust God?

“Where is the locked door in your life right now?”

“What would it look like for you to trust God with that door?”

END WITH PRAYING