



Advancing The Gospel Together

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To discuss the obstacles the church encounters on its' mission of spreading the Gospel and how God helps overcome them all.

ICE BREAKER



What animal do you think best represents your personality and why?

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Acts 12:1-24

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. ²He killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. ⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

⁶Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

(Turn to Acts 12 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 8-24)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: God's mission will not be stopped.

Key Question: What common hurdles must be overcome to advance the gospel?

1. Persecution can't stop the mission. (vv. 1-5)
2. Prison can't stop the mission. (vv. 4-6)
3. Powerful opponents can't stop the mission. (vv. 19b-22)

DISCUSSION



- This week's passage shows how the early church persevered in spreading the Gospel despite several obstacles. What are some of the obstacles you have faced when sharing your faith? How have you seen God remove or overcome obstacles that have stood in the way?
- Acts 12 records the murderous death of the Apostle James by decree from King Herod. What sort of effect would this have had on members of the church? How would you feel if our government leaders ordered the death of one of our spiritual leaders?
- After Herod gets a positive response from the Jews for killing James, he imprisons Peter (v. 4-6). What truth of the gospel would bring strength and comfort to you if you were faced with a similar situation?
- We see several proofs in Acts 12 of how powerful King Herod was. He ordered people to death, he demanded his enemies be put in prison, he controlled the food supply, he spoke with powerful effect. How can we live with joy and hope under similarly oppressive leaders?
- The account of James and Peter in Acts 12 show us that God's mission cannot and will not be stopped. How does this truth encourage and inspire you as you face opposition in your own ministry of the Gospel? Read Philippians 1:12-20. What does this passage teach you about obstacles and how God uses them to further His mission?

LIFE APPLICATION



The mission of God will not be stopped! Think about some of the obstacles the church faces when sharing the Gospel today. Commit to praying for God's help in removing or overcoming roadblocks that stand in the way of you sharing your faith. If you face an obstacle, text it to your Life Group to pray for you!

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


