

Acts 12:1-17
Questions for Community Groups and Personal Reflection

1. Read Acts 12:1-17. What did you find most helpful, challenging, or encouraging from this week's passage and message?
2. Can you remember a time when you felt like God wasn't answering your prayers, or wasn't doing what you were asking him to do? How did you respond? How did that impact your faith?
3. When difficult situations arise, what is your knee-jerk reaction? Is it to pray? Is it to seek help from others? Go to the gym (find distractions)? Hide from people? Self-medicate? Why do we so often avoid going to the one who is capable of delivering us?
4. What are some of the ways you have seen God's supernatural work in your life, your church, the people around you? Did you immediately attribute these things to Him?
5. In the early 1800s, President Thomas Jefferson took a razor to the Bible and compiled a book entitled, "The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth," which removed all the miraculous works and references to the supernatural from the Gospels. Why do you think people (Christians included) tend to want to ignore the Spiritual aspects of Christianity?
6. Are you surprised/incredulous when you hear reports of God doing something amazing? What does your response say about your faith in him to do the impossible? How should we respond to these stories? (1 John 4:1-6)
7. What does it mean to pray in faith and with expectation? What is the danger in praying with high hopes and low expectations? (James 1:5-8)
8. How do your feelings about your abilities/faith/knowledge affect your ability or willingness to serve on mission?