



Sermon  
Discussion  
Guide

Sunday, February 9, 2025

## ACTS – A Church Sent Into the World

### Read/Reflect

Read Acts 12. This chapter is a transition story. Up to this point the account of the church is Jerusalem centered, and hereafter it will be “ends of the earth” centered.

1. Given the transition, who are the various people in this story and what do they represent? Also, note two different people named John (vs.2, vs. 12), two different people named James (vs.2, vs.17).
2. What are some parallels between this story and the Easter story (see Luke 22 & 24)? Do you think the parallels are significant or coincidental?

### Explore

3. How do you respond to the question of why God would rescue Peter and not James (the son of Zebedee)? How do you respond to God when he doesn't answer prayers the way you thought he should?
4. When in history (and now) has the church experienced “imprisonment”? When has it experienced the power of the resurrection? When in your own life have you experienced either of these things?
5. When are we like the Christians in Jerusalem who were discussing what is or what is not possible, when all they had to do was open the door to see?
6. How satisfying is it for you to know that whether the church is “successful” or not, the story of God and his salvation will prevail (vs.24)?

### Pray

- Praise God for his faithfulness in always revealing his salvation no matter the success or failure of our faith.
- Pray for faithfulness in Christ's church, especially when it endures hardship and persecution.