

LIFE GROUPS

LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 14 of 30 | Sermon date: April 3, 2022

Discipleship Phrase: God's church, God's way.

Big Idea for Series: God's church is built on His principles.

Abiding *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

Keeping yourselves in prayer this week as you consider the difficult circumstances of your life and ever mindful of where God has met you in the midst and/or afterwards will be key. Ask God to show you exactly where he was in the middle of a trial/circumstance in your life where you felt out of control and/or unable to persevere without His presence. Thank Him for pursuing you relentlessly. Ask Him for reminders of His goodness and faithfulness as you walk through this week.

Leading *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week our "head" question has us reading a short passage from Acts 12 that features some significant swings in circumstances. The aim of this question is to identify those changes of circumstance and explore how Peter might have felt. The "heart" question invites us all to share a "current situation" with unsettling circumstances. Our third question is designed to recall a "past situation" with unsettling circumstances yet in the end, it also reminds of how God was and is completely secure. The "hands" question is to get the group to talk about practical ways to keep one another encouraged and focused on God alone and not on our circumstances.

Shepherding *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

These past few weeks we have seen how the disciples had to trust God in some very difficult circumstances. Many times, those "circumstances" involved intense persecution. Following group discussion this week, be attentive to your members as they share some of their unsettling circumstances. Who needs your encouragement or your ear to listen? Can you share a difficult circumstance in your past where you saw God had His hand on it the whole time? What had God revealed to you? Encourage your group to pray for each other about their specific circumstances throughout the coming week.

Church Announcements *(be in the know & share with your group)*

One of our first-tier ministry partners, Covered, is hosting their 1st annual Bowlapalooza at Boondocks in Parker! Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

REMEMBER:

"Every group deserves a great leader."

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Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows (*choose what fits best*)

Weekly Vision (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).

Ask a Hook Question (*a thought-provoking question*)

When has a well-planned road trip taken a wild turn and how did things turn out?

Recap the Message (*ask a couple people to share*)

Scripture References (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

Acts 12:1-17 (ESV)

Implications (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Circumstance's change, but God's promises are still secure.
2. At one level, Luke is reminding us that the Exodus from death, tyranny, and bondage is still happening.
3. Our job, regardless of context, is to be in the business of deliverance.
4. As we go into all the world, good and bad things will happen. May we focus on the Exodus of our hearts from bondage to freedom, and the Exodus of those around us that are still enslaved by sin.

Discussion Questions (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Circumstances can change quickly. Read Acts 12:1-17. How do the circumstances change in this passage? How might Peter have felt through these changes?
2. Where in your life are circumstances changing, right now, that are unsettling?
3. Share a time that reminds you personally, that God is completely secure even when your circumstances were not.
4. How could we, as a group, encourage one another not trust in the storm (of our circumstances) but rather to trust in the one who controls the wind and the waves?

Closing Prayer (*ask openly for a volunteer*)