



The Anatomy of Answered Prayer

Week of Feb 26 – Mar 5

Icebreaker Question:

- 1 | If you could learn any skill, what would it be?

Into the Text Questions:

Read Acts 12:1-17

- 1 | Who was responsible for the persecution of the Jews (Acts 4:1-2; 5:16-18)? What king do we read about in v1, and what did he do? What did he do to James and what else do we know about James? (Think: What impact would this event have on the church and why?) What was the setting for this conversation (Matthew 20:17-19)? What lesson did Jesus teach his disciples from this (Matthew 20:24-28)? Are believers free from suffering and persecution (1 Thessalonians 3:12)?

- 2 | What did the church do while Peter was in prison, and what lessons can we learn (v. 5)? How was Peter bound, and who released him (v. 6-7)? What did the angel say to Peter in v. 7-8? Where did the angel take Peter, and how did they get through the gate? What did Peter think was happening? Where did Peter go and what else do we know about John and Mark?

- 3 | Who came to the door when Peter arrived, and what did she do first? What were the first reactions of the people (v15)? (Think: Why would the people act this way if they had been praying for Peter's release?) What did the people do as Peter continued to knock? What did Peter tell the people and what did he do (v17)? Does prayer change things (James 5:16; Philippians 2:27)? What happens if we do not pray (James 4:2)? Do we *always* receive what we pray for? What are some reasons we do not pray (Isaiah 55:1-2; James 4:1-6)? Why should we pray if God already knows our needs?

Application Questions:

- 1 | Does "earnest prayer" characterize a part of your life? Why, why not? What is your perspective on prayer and how strong is your prayer life? When have you been frustrated in prayer? When have you seen God move in powerful ways to answer your prayers? Why do we sometimes pray for things instead of acting? When should we pray and when should we act?
- 2 | What do you think the phrase "prayer was made without ceasing"(v. 5) suggests about the sincerity and fervency of the Church members' prayers? What principle can we learn from this account about the effect our prayers can have on others and ourselves?