

August 26, 2018  
Acts 12:1-11

## THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

### I. Introduction

- Who is the most famous person that you have ever met or spoken to?

**Thought:** What a wonderful **privilege** to talk to the Sovereign God of the Universe.

### II. Unpacking The Passage:

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ The Mystery of God's Providence

“And we know, we know, we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, who are the called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ The Ministry of God's People

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Acts 12:5

#### 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

“Prayer was made **without ceasing**”  
Acts 12:5 (KJV)

“**constant prayer** was offered to God for him by the church.” Acts 12:5 (NKJV)

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should **always pray and not give up.**”  
Luke 18:1

## 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Prayer

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with **all your heart.**” Jeremiah 29:13

“I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my **struggle** by praying to God for me.” Romans 15:30

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a **privilege** to carry  
**everything to God in prayer!**

### **POINTS TO PONDER** **Week of August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>** **Acts 12:1-19**

#### **Open It**

1. If you had to write a short story, what is one thing you would do to make it interesting to the reader?
2. \*What is one dream you remember as having been very vivid?
3. If you told someone about an exciting dream you had, how would you make it come alive to the listener?

## **Explore It**

4. Why was King Herod so cold-hearted toward the church? (12:1-3)
5. Whom did King Herod arrest? (12:1, 3-4)
6. Whom did the king have put to death? (12:2)
7. What did Herod do with Peter? Why? (12:3-4)
8. \*What did the king plan to do with Peter after the Passover? Why? (12:3-4)
9. What did the church do while Peter was in prison? (12:5)
10. While in jail, why didn't Peter seem to fear for his life? (12:6)
11. \*What happened on the night before Peter's trial? (12:6-11)
12. Who enabled Peter to escape? (12:7-10)
13. How did Peter escape from prison? (12:7-10)
14. \*When did Peter know that what he had experienced was real? (12:11)
15. Where did Peter go once he realized what had happened? (12:12)
16. What happened when Peter appeared at Mary's door? (12:13-16)
17. Once inside the house, what did Peter say? (12:17)

18. How did the soldiers react when they discovered Peter was gone? (12:18)

19. What did Herod do? (12:19)

### **Get It**

20. When have you seen a person try to take advantage of Christians, as Herod did?

21. \*How do you tend to react in trying circumstances?

22. How can a church use prayer when faced with a crisis?

23. \*What can we learn from the way Peter handled his situation?

24. How can you help and encourage Christians who serve in difficult situations?

25. What can you do to make your prayers for others a part of their ministry?

### **Apply It**

26. \*What do you want to remember the next time you suffer for your faith?

27. For what missionary can you pray throughout this week?

28. To what other family can you show hospitality this week? How?