SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Acts

Chapter 12

Prayer, a Prison and a Proud King

MEMORY VERSE · ACTS 12:5

"So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Acts 12

Acts 12 puts a proud king, a locked prison and a praying church side by side, and the king loses. This week God invites you to pray harder than you have been, to rest in His hands when you are afraid, and to give Him the glory for every gate He opens.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Acts study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

But Prayer Was Made

READ · ACTS 12:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Herod do to James, why did he arrest Peter, and what was the church doing while Peter was in prison (12:2–5)?

REFLECT

God let James die (12:2) and later set Peter free. How do you keep trusting God when He answers one prayer with yes and another with no?

REFLECT

Verse 5 turns on the word "but": Peter was kept in prison, "but prayer … was being made fervently." What hard situation in your life needs that kind of "but prayer" right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one man who is in chains of some kind, and pray for him fervently today — out loud, for at least five minutes.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 12:5)

DAY 2 OF 5

Get Up Quickly

READ · ACTS 12:6–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was Peter, what was he doing, and what happened to his chains and to the iron gate (12:6–10)?

REFLECT

Peter was sleeping between two soldiers the night before his trial (12:6). What keeps you awake at night, and what would it take to rest in God's hands like Peter?

REFLECT

Peter followed the angel one step at a time and "did not know that what was being done by the angel was real" (12:9). What is the next small step of obedience God has put in front of you, even if you can't see the whole road?

RESPOND — TODAY

Take the one step of obedience you named today, before you fully understand where it leads.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 12:5)

DAY 3 OF 5

Knocking at the Gate

READ · ACTS 12:12–17

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where did Peter go, who answered the gate, and what did the people inside say when she told them (12:12–15)?

REFLECT

The church was praying for Peter, but when Rhoda said he was at the gate they told her, "You are out of your mind!" (12:15). When has God answered a prayer of yours and you almost missed it or explained it away?

REFLECT

Rhoda "kept insisting" Peter was there (12:15). Who in your life needs you to keep insisting that God is real and still at work?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down one prayer God has answered for you, and tell one person about it today (12:17).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 12:5)

DAY 4 OF 5

Give God the Glory

READ · ACTS 12:18–23

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the people shout about Herod, and why does Luke say the angel struck him (12:22–23)?

REFLECT

Herod took praise that belonged to God (12:22–23). Where are you tempted to take credit for something God did, or to enjoy flattery a little too much?

REFLECT

The same angel who struck Peter awake to set him free (12:7) struck Herod down (12:23). What is the difference between the man God lifts up and the man God brings down?

RESPOND — TODAY

When someone compliments you today, thank him and then say out loud one way God made it possible.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 12:5)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Word Kept Growing

READ · ACTS 12:24–25

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happened to the word of the Lord after Herod died, and who came back with Barnabas and Saul (12:24–25)?

REFLECT

Herod ended the chapter dead, while "the word of the Lord continued to grow" (12:24). What fear in your life looks bigger than God's word right now?

REFLECT

Barnabas and Saul "fulfilled their mission" (12:25). What task from God do you need to finish this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read 12:24 aloud and thank God that no king, prison or addiction can stop His word.

❒ READ IT ❒ PRAYED IT ❒ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ACTS 12:5)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The church gathered at night in Mary's house to pray (12:12). What would it look like for our group to pray together like that, and when could we do it?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Peter told them to report what God had done "to James and the brethren" (12:17). Why does it matter that we tell each other when God answers prayer?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Herod died because "he did not give God the glory" (12:23). How can we help each other stay humble when things go well?

MY PRAYER

Lord, You opened the iron gate for Peter while Your people prayed, so today I bring You the gate in my life that only You can open…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ACTS 12:5

“So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.”