

Earnest Prayer of God's People
Acts 12:1-17

Getting Started

- ❖ How would you describe your prayer rhythms? Would you describe yourself as a more spontaneous, “need-oriented” prayer or disciplined, “kingdom-intercessor”?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. God's people often find themselves in circumstances that create anxiety, uncertainty, and fear. (1-5a)
2. (Takeaway Truth) Earnest intercessory prayer is the first and greatest offensive weapon in the arsenal of God's people. (v.5b-17)

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Read the opening verses and then verses 18-25. After reading these verses compose a profile of Herod Agrippa. The chapter opens with Herod exerting his power and the disciples powerless but closes much differently. Do you think this is intentional and what is Luke saying by framing the chapter like this?
- ❖ Try to put yourself in Peter's sandals. What do you think it was like to be in jail in those conditions and then to be led out of jail by an angel? Why?
- ❖ The Lord's deliverance of Peter was not quiet or stealthy. In what ways did the Lord mock Herod's security measures? (Acts 12:7-10)
- ❖ How did the Christians who had gathered to pray for Peter (and who knew about James's death) respond when he appeared at the door (12:12-17)? What does this indicate to you? Why?

Apply It!

- ❖ Does this passage raise questions or provide application to you about prayer?
- ❖ What are your prayer habits? On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 being “on life support” and 10 representing “I'm in communion with God all day every day”) how would you rate the health of your prayer life?
- ❖ What needs to change—specifically? Immediately?

Think About It!

The prayers of Saints work for good to the godly. The saints pray for all the members of the body mystical, their prayers prevail much. They prevail for recovery from sickness... They prevail for victory over enemies... They prevail for deliverance out of prison... The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer fetched the

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angel... Thus the prayers of the saints work for good to the body mystical. And this is no small privilege to a child of God, that he has a constant trade of prayer driven for him. (Thomas Watson, All Things for Good)

Note from Pastor Jerry: For this year's CG questions, group resources and Bible studies from John Stott (Acts Seeing the Spirit at Work), John MacArthur (MacArthur Bible Studies: Acts), Jack Hayford (Kingdom Power) and Max Lucado (Life Lessons from the Book of Acts) are used in addition to original material.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

March 6, 2022 | First Sunday in Lent

WORSHIP SONGS

CORNERSTONE

Words by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, Edward Mote / Music by Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, Eric Liljero, Will Bradberry, 2011

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone; weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging
grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound, may I then in him be found.
Dressed in his righteousness alone; faultless, stand before the throne.

GOD SO LOVED

Words and Music by Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash and Andrew Berghold, 2019

Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that
never runs dry. Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.
Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table;
He will satisfy. Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for.

*For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only
Son to save us. Whoever believes in Him will live forever.
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in
freedom. For God so loved, God so loved the world.*

Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down
at the foot of the cross. Jesus is waiting there with open arms.

Praise God, praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.

THANK YOU JESUS FOR THE BLOOD

Words and Music by Charity Gayle, Ryan Kennedy, Steven Musso, David Gentiles, and Bryan McCleery, 2021

I was a wretch; I remember who I was. I was lost, I was blind,
I was running out of time. Sin separated, the breach was far too wide,
but from the far side of the chasm, You held me in Your sight.

So You made a way across the great divide, left behind Heaven's
throne to build it here inside. There at the cross You paid the debt I
owed. Broke my chains, freed my soul, for the first time I had hope.

*Thank You, Jesus, for the blood applied. Thank You, Jesus, it has
washed me white. Thank You, Jesus, You have saved my life,
brought me from the darkness into glorious light.*

You took my place, laid inside my tomb of sin.

You were buried for three days, but then you walked right out again.
And now death has no sting, and life has no end for I have been
transformed by the blood of the Lamb.

There is nothing stronger than the wonder working power of the
blood, the blood that calls us sons and daughters.

We are ransomed by our Father through the blood, the blood.

COME THOU FOUNT

Words by Robert Robinson, 1758 / Music by Asahel Nettleton, 1825

Come, Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise His name I'm fixed upon it, name of God's unchanging love.

Hither to Thy love has blessed me; Thou hast brought me to this
place; I know Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.
He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 32; Daniel 9:3-10; Hebrews 2:10-18; John 12:44-50

MONDAY | Ps. 121; Genesis 37:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-19; Mark 1:1-13

TUESDAY | Ps. 34; Genesis 37:12-24; 1 Cor. 1:20-31; Mark 1:14-28

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 51; Genesis 37:25-36; 1 Cor. 2:1-13; Mark 1:29-45

THURSDAY | Ps. 27; Genesis 39:1-23; 1 Cor. 2:14-3:15; Mark 2:1-12

FRIDAY | Ps. 22; Genesis 40:1-23; 1 Cor. 3:16-23; Mark 2:13-22

SATURDAY | Ps. 31; Genesis 41:1-13; 1 Cor. 4:1-7; Mark 2:23-3:6

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Holy God, as your people we are grateful that we live in the shelter of
the Most High, that we abide in the shadow of the Almighty. Grant us
grace to declare that you are our refuge and our fortress; our God, in
whom we trust. We rest in knowing that you will deliver us; you will
protect those who know your name. When we call to you, you answer
us. You rescue us and satisfy us with long life; you show us your salva-
tion; through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.



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