



Conversations That Matter: Rhoda

Acts 12:6-25 - Do You Believe in Miracles?

EPISODE 1 Pure Evil - Peter's Arrest by Herod (1-5)

EPISODE 2 The Miracle (6-17)

6-11 Peter Escapes with the Angel of the Lord

12-15 Rhoda's Moment

16-17 Mary and her guests are amazed

EPISODE 3 Pure Evil - Herod's Response . . . (18-23)

18-19 Orders are given to put soldiers guarding Peter to be put to death

20-23 The death of Herod Agrippa

EPISODE 4 The Church Moves Forward (24-25)

24 Growth/Multiplication of the Message

25 The Mission Continues

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so difficult for us to believe God can do the miraculous? Discuss.
2. Read Acts 12:12-17. How can we relate to the way that the disciples responded to Peter's escape? Discuss.
3. Read Acts 12:1-5. It says in verse 5 that when Peter was incarcerated the people of the church made "earnest prayer" for him. The greek word tells us it was an extended time of prayer with extreme focus. When have you spent a significant amount of time in focused prayer and seen God do the miraculous? Discuss.
4. Read Acts 12:24-25. The carnage of verses 20-23 is followed by a report of how God is blessing the church and bringing more leaders together to build the kingdom of God. How do we keep our focus on the mission God has called us to with the evil that surrounds us at times? Discuss.
5. Pray together asking God to give you eyes to see the needs around you and the faith to step up and minister to those in need.

Acts 12:6-25: Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. ⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. ⁸ And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." ⁹ And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. ¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

¹² When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. ¹³ And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. ¹⁵ They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" ¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. ¹⁹ And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

²⁰ Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.



L.I.F.E. Group Leader's Guide

Main Idea: When God does amazing things how do we react as a church? Do we lean in or shy away? Do we embrace the moment or question the process? God is at work doing amazing things all around us? Is it time to lean in?

Looking Back: Last week we focused on the impact of good leadership in the church. Our example was Barnabas and we looked at his journey to Antioch, then his journey to get Paul and bring him back to Antioch for over a year of ministry of teaching and preparation. How would you answer the question, Am I a disruptor when it comes to sharing my faith?

Disruptor: Barnabas was used by God as a (disruptor) in the culture. A disruptor is a company, person or form of technology that causes significant change in an industry or market by means of innovation (= new ideas or methods) - and in Barnabas' case being part of the innovative process was found in the development of leaders and stepping into moments that defined the leadership structure of the early church. It also included effective training of the leaders that disrupted the world through the power of the gospel. - Pastor Chuck

Study Question #1: Why is it so difficult for us to believe God can do the miraculous? Discuss.

Study Question #2: Read Acts 12:12-17. How can we relate to the way that the disciples responded to Peter's escape? Discuss.

Study Question #3: Read Acts 12:1-5. It says in verse 5 that when Peter was incarcerated the people of the church made "earnest prayer" for him. The greek word tells us it was an extended time of prayer with extreme focus. When have you spent a significant amount of time in focused prayer and seen God do the miraculous? Discuss.

Study Question #4: Read Acts 12:24-25. The carnage of verses 20-23 is followed by a report of how God is blessing the church and bringing more leaders together to build the kingdom of God. How do we keep our focus on the mission God has called us to with the evil that surrounds us at times? Discuss.

Praying Together: Pray together asking God to give you eyes to see the needs around you and the faith to step up and minister to those in need.

Mission Challenge (Application): Work as a group to choose a big prayer request—something that can only happen if God intervenes. Commit to praying for that request as a group until God responds." (CSB Life Connections Study Bible)

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS (CRU)

- 1) What does this passage tell you about God and His Character?
- 2) What does this passage tell you about People?
- 3) What does this passage tell you about His relationship with people?
- 4) How might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to live differently?

