

2024 - Family Devo

June 9 - a



READ: Acts 12:6-19

Main Idea: While Peter is sleeping in prison, waiting to likely eventually be executed, God sends an angel to rescue him. Once the angel leads him out of the prison, he goes to the house where some Christians were praying for him. The scene is full of irony. When the servant girl tells the group (praying for Peter) that he is at the gate of their house, they refuse to believe her. What a great example of God doing more than we can ask or imagine.

DISCUSS

Children: Why do you think they did not believe the servant girl? They were praying together and when their prayers were answered, they didn't believe her. Did they truly believe in the power of prayer? God is with us wherever we are, He hears and answers prayers. We should always pray for others.

Teen: What prayers has God answered for you? What was your reaction when you saw your God at work?

Adult: Most Christians believe in the power of prayer. The church here was praying earnestly but was astonished when God rescued Peter. Why do you think this was? Have you ever prayed for a specific outcome, yet God answered your prayer in a different, better way? Do you think maybe the church was praying for Peter's safety, but God released him from prison? Do we sometimes limit God with what we ask in prayer? Should we show more faith by saying "God, you know what is best in this situation. Help us recognize when your hand gives us the best." It is hard for us as humans not to have the "solution" we want already in mind.

PRAY

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



2024 - Family Devo

June 9 - b



READ: Acts 12:20-25

Main Idea: Herod gives a speech to the people of Tyre and Sidon. It is quite a show, with Herod wearing his royal robes and sitting on the throne. The crowds were wanting mercy from the king and help with food, so they shout flattery, “the voice of a god, not a man!” When Herod fails to correct them and give honor to where it is due, God strikes him down and he dies.

DISCUSS

Children: So, you can dress as fancy as you want, and you can tell people how great they are all day long. Does that make you powerful? These people were hungry and one person who could give them food was Herod. So they praised him because they needed to eat. He should have been a better person and let them have food. But most importantly, he should have given God the credit for everything and not taken credit for himself.

Teen: Who were the people seeking to appease? Who was the king seeking accolades from? Does any good come from being people focused over God focused?

Adult: Lord Acton said “absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Do you think it is hard for most people in positions of power to remain the person they were before? Why or why not? Many of us might think of presidents or cabinet members who wanted to be treated differently than us in the same situation. Herod didn't equate himself to God, but he didn't give God the glory when others did. Do you think the continual adulation of the crowds turned his head? How can the people of power remain true to God?

PRAY

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