

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – January 19, 2020**

**Theme: The Acts of The Apostles Topic: The Miraculous Deliverance**

**Main Text: Acts 12:1-25.**

**Key verse:** Acts 12:11 “And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”.” (NKJV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Earlier in the book of Acts, the first wave of persecution against the Church came from the religious leaders of the time. And apart from the brief arrest and detention of Peter and John (Acts 5:17-18), the Apostles, otherwise seemed unaffected by the persecutions which scattered the believers out of Jerusalem; and even into Gentile territories. This time, the source of the persecution was from the top political echelon. Herod Agrippa (Acts 12:1) decides to target the Church; perhaps hoping that if he cuts off the head, it will stop the spread of the gospel, just like his grandfather, Herod the Great (who slaughtered many children in Bethlehem trying to kill infant Jesus). So, he succeeds in killing Apostle James (the brother of John). And when he saw that the Jews liked it, he proceeded to arrest Peter also, intending to kill him too (Acts 12:2-4).

1. **(a) Imagine that you are James, one of Jesus’ inner circle of 3 (Peter, James and his brother John). You look back to find that God the Holy Spirit captured your martyrdom, in a short sentence of 11 words! How will that make you feel? What can we learn from this about God and His purposes? (b) Why, do you think, God allowed Apostle James to be killed but then rescues Apostle Peter? (c) If you were asked to explain why a loving God would allow His devoted servant to die in such a gruesome manner, what would you say?”**

Perhaps Herod recalled Peter and John’s previous mysterious escape from custody (Acts 5:17-20), so he proceeded to tighten the security around Peter – chains, four squads of 4 soldiers in each squad. But when it was time for Peter’s rescue, the chains fell off Peter’s wrist; they passed the first and second guard posts unnoticed; the iron gate leading to the city opened for them all by itself (Acts 12:7-10 NLT). All the fortifications could not hinder God. *Grudem* defines a miracle as “*a less common kind of God’s activity in which he arouses people’s awe and wonder, and bears witness to himself.*” (*Systematic Theology*, chapter 52). Awe and wonder were exactly Peter’s response “*it is really true!*” he said. “*The Lord has sent His angel and saved me ...*” (Acts 12:11) God could easily have rescued James if HE wanted to.

2. **(a) Let participants identify the various miracles which God did to get Peter out of jail. (b) What are some other definitions of miracle you have heard and how do they hold up to what you know about God? (c) Read Acts 12:5 and discuss the importance of prayer in experiencing God’s miracle**

*‘But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers...’ (Acts 12:5-6 NLT).* Peter was probably the only believer who slept that night! And it is interesting how the chapter ended – Herod dies; *the word of God continued to spread, and many new believers were added to the Church; Barnabas and Saul finished their mission to Jerusalem and returned to Antioch.*’ (Acts 12:23-25)

3. **(a) Imagine Peter sleeping chained to two soldiers on the night before his imminent execution. What do you think was the secret of his peace? E.g. Matthew 16:17-19; Mark 4:38; Acts 12:5 (b) How can we learn from Peter to be at peace even when facing the strongest storm of our lives? (c) Consider how this wave of attack against the church ended. What possible lessons and comfort are in it for us as we pray for ourselves and for the Church in Nigeria and globally? E.g. Acts 12:24**

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**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help me to always remember that Your miracles are for Your own glory and to advance Your Kingdom purposes here on earth. In Jesus name, amen.