WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Notes

Sermon Title: The Answer To Your Prayer Is Knocking At The Door
Key Scripture: Acts 12:1-19
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/acts-in-august-part-2
Date + Speaker: August 11, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

The BIG IDEA: God answers the prayers of those who seek His will. When you pray, believe you will receive an answer, and when the answer comes, don't be shocked, be thankful!

Starter Question:

1. Which prayers have you offered for your life, family, or society that you might have spoken more out of routine, but secretly doubt will be answered? Were your prayers fervent? Did you find other Christians to pray with as a body?

Discussion Questions to Review (observation):

2. Read Acts 12:1-4 What problem did the disciples have with Herod?

3. Read Acts 12:5 What did the disciples' problem lead them to do?

Discussion Questions for Digging Deeper (interpretation and application):

4. Read Acts 12: 6-7a Have you ever experienced God's presence and a peace that transcends human understanding during a difficult time? Did this peace come to you spontaneously?

5. Read Acts 12:7b-11 Reflect on a time when you witnessed or experienced God's power in your life. How does that experience compare to the events in this passage? What lessons about God's power can you draw from both?

6. Read Acts 12:12-17 Rhoda's role in recognizing Peter and sharing the news with the others is a small but significant part of the story. What does this tell us about how God values and uses even seemingly minor contributions from ordinary people? How can we encourage and recognize the contributions of ordinary people in our own faith communities?

7. Read Acts 12:18-19 How does the guards' fate, as described in the passage, underscore the idea that all earthly authorities are ultimately subject to God's purposes? What does this mean for how we view leadership and authority in our own contexts?

<u>Tips for Leaders:</u>

Question 2: Herod's actions of persecuting the disciples were driven by his desire to gain favour with the Jewish people. The verses note that he had James executed and saw that this pleased the Jews, which motivated him to arrest Peter as well.

Question 3: They prayed earnestly, striving and stretching in prayer with an intensity similar to Jesus's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane.