

Acts 12: Praying, and Still Stunned

Acts 12:1-17 (with Luke 24:1-12, 36-41) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Herod has just killed James with the sword, and Peter is next. Acts 12:5 says, “Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.” Luke uses that same word family for Jesus praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:44). These people are serious. Then God answers. An angel walks Peter out past the guards, and he shows up at Mary’s house knocking at the gate. Rhoda is so happy she forgets to open it. She runs in and tells everybody, and they say, “You are out of your mind.” Luke tells it a lot like Easter morning in Luke 24, when the women brought good news and the men called it an idle tale. That’s me. I pray hard, and then I’m shocked when God actually does it. And Jesus answers anyway. He isn’t waiting on us to work up enough faith. Luke even slips in this line while they’re still arguing: **“But Peter continued knocking.” Jesus answers a prayer meeting full of people who can’t believe it worked.**

GO DEEPER, STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read **Acts 12:12-16**, then **Luke 24:1-12** and **Luke 24:36-41**. Count how many ways the two scenes match, and ask what both rooms full of believers had a hard time believing.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in Acts: **Acts 1:14** (“devoting themselves to prayer”) · **Acts 2:42** (devoted to “the prayers”) · **Acts 4:31** (“when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken”)

Luke’s Gospel: **Luke 22:44** (Jesus “prayed more earnestly”) · **Luke 24:11** (the women’s report “seemed to them an idle tale”) · **Luke 24:41** (“they still disbelieved for joy”) · **Luke 18:1** (“always to pray and not lose heart”)

Rest of Scripture: **Mark 9:24** (“I believe; help my unbelief!”) · **Ephesians 3:20** (“far more abundantly than all that we ask or think”) · **James 5:17** (Elijah, “a man with a nature like ours”)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Peter in Prison

R.C. Sproul · Ligonier Ministries (sermon, 2004)

<https://learn.ligonier.org/sermons/peter-prison>

Sermon on Acts 12:1-19: what this chapter teaches about prayer, including the hard “no” in James’s case.