

# Saved by Grace

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## Small group questions

*Answered prayer when you're not expecting it – Acts 12*

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Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact Mark:

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1. Why don't *you* pray – or pray as you ought?
2. You may enjoy reading Acts 12 again. Did anything stand out for you from the passage? Or is there anything about which you need clarification?

### **MIND THE GAP - CH 11**

3. Peter was in huge trouble for mixing with Gentiles. Yet what was surprising about the leaders' response once they heard Peter's account of what had happened? 11:18.
4. The persecution which caused people to flee Jerusalem, only led to the spread of the good news to more Gentiles. The Jerusalem leaders sent Barnabas to Antioch to check out what has happening. See his lovely and encouraging response in 11:23. What's the encouragement for us here?

### **DISASTER - BUT!**

5. 12:5 – with Peter firmly in prison, all the church could do was pray. Why do we sometimes think that this is a 'last resort' or not much at all but at least something?
6. What was Peter doing as the church prayed? Given his circumstances, are you surprised? How can we find such peace in difficult circumstances?

### **ANSWERED PRAYER**

7. See v11. How did Peter reach such a clear picture of what had happened?
8. Why do you think the believers were so surprised to see Peter standing there?
9. Why are we sometimes so surprised to see answers to our prayers? How can we change our thinking so that we are bolder and more expectant in prayer?

### **REVERSAL OF FORTUNES**

10. The chapter "closes with Herod dead, Peter free and the Word of God triumphing. Such is the power of God to overthrow hostile human plans and to establish his own plans in their place." (John Stott). What are the implications for us in our time?
11. Why was Herod's life taken so suddenly? What are the lessons here for us?
12. v24 – a lovely summary statement that appears throughout the book. How should this encourage us to press on in our efforts to 'shared Jesus for life' across central and western NSW?

### **THINKING THROUGH THE IMPLICATIONS**

13. What are the take homes for us – especially with regard to prayer?

*Pray that we will pray – with boldness and expectant hearts and see the word of God continue to increase and spread.*