

Acts – 10/25/26

Read

Read Acts 12:1-24 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- Luke only briefly references the death of James, one of Jesus' inner three disciples. Why do you think he gave so little attention to this? How does God use the suffering and death of his disciples to further the kingdom?
- What does the church's response to Peter's imprisonment (v.5) reveal about their belief in prayer?
- Why might Luke have placed the stories of James' death and Peter's rescue back to back? What does this communicate to us?
- What is the significance of Herod's death for the storyline in Acts? What does it mean to give God glory? How does his death compare to Ananias and Sapphira's in Acts 5?
- V.24 is another summary statement for the book. What does it show about God's mission and how he accomplishes it?

Apply

- When have you prayed earnestly for something and seen God answer that prayer? How do this passage and those personal experiences encourage you to grow in your practice of prayer?
- How do the different stories of James and Peter help us trust God? How should we respond when God works differently in the lives of others in our community?
- What do v.20-23 teach about the relationship between God and authorities of the day? How should Christians view political power and authorities?
- What would it look like for you to regularly give glory to God in your life?
- What can we do as a community to be part of the multiplication of God's Word?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.