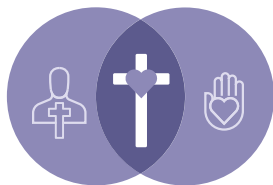


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LESSON 5

Acts 12

GOD PRESERVES US TO SERVE HIM.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God sets me free from sin and death through His Son.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I can trust God to free me so that I can share His message with others.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can express how God works to preserve His people, even in the midst of persecution and great difficulty.

YOUTH

I can share how God cares for me and leads me to serve Him.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God keeps us safe and helps us to serve Him.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God hears my prayers and helps me in my troubles.

BIBLE VERSE

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.

James 1:2

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

King Herod launches attacks on the Church, killing James, the brother of John. When Herod sees how much this pleases the Jews, he has Peter imprisoned. Peter is guarded by four squads of soldiers as the Church prays for him. That night, an angel appears and leads Peter past the guards and out of the prison. Peter knocks at the gate of the house where the others are gathered in prayer. A servant girl, Rhoda, answers. She is so excited that she runs to tell the others, leaving Peter to continue knocking. An angel of the Lord strikes Herod down for his pride.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—While Peter was in prison, what did the other believers do? What can we do when God's people are in trouble?
- ▶ *At Mealttime*—How did God rescue Peter from Herod's plans? What happened when he got to John Mark's house?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Pray the Lord's Prayer together as a family, focusing especially on the words "deliver us from evil."
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing." How does today's Bible account show that God hears prayer? For whom can you "pray without ceasing" this evening?

