

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 30 – Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison - [Acts 12:1-19](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

James Killed and Peter Imprisoned

1 About this time, King Herod began persecuting some of the leaders of the church.

2 He had James, the brother of John, killed with a sword.

3 When he saw how much this pleased the Jews, his next move was to have Peter arrested too. (This happened during the feast days of Unleavened Bread.)

4 After arresting Peter, he had him put in jail, turning him over to four platoons of four soldiers each. He planned to put him on public trial after Passover.*

Acts 12:4 – “After Passover.”* After the eight days of the Passover Festival.

5 But while Peter was being kept in jail, the people of the church were fervently praying to God for him.

Peter Escapes From Jail!

6 The night before Peter was to be put on trial by Herod, he was bound by chains and sleeping between two soldiers. Two other soldiers were standing outside in front of the jail, guarding the entrance.

7 Suddenly a light shined in the cell and the angel of the Lord stood beside Peter! Nudging him in the ribs, the angel woke him up and said, “Quick! Get up!” Then the chains fell off his wrists.

8 “Tighten your belt and put on your sandals,” the angel then told him. And he did. “Now put your coat on and follow me,” the angel ordered.

9 So Peter followed him out of the jail, not realizing that this was really happening. He thought he was seeing a vision.

10 They passed through the first guard station, then the second, and when they came to the iron gate that led out into the city, it opened for them of its own accord! The angel walked along with Peter for one block, and then disappeared.

11 When Peter finally came to himself, he said, “It really happened! Now I know for sure that the Lord sent His angel to rescue me from Herod and from everything the Jewish leaders were expecting to do to me.”

12 Upon realizing this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many were gathered together praying.

13 When Peter knocked on the porch door, a girl named Rhoda came *to investigate*.

14 When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed that she didn’t think to open the door, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing outside in front on the porch.

15 “You’re out of your mind!” they exclaimed. But she kept insisting that it was true. “It must be his angel,” they then said.

16 But Peter kept knocking, and when they finally opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But Peter motioned to them with his hand to be quiet. Then he went inside and told them how the Lord had brought him out of jail. After relating this he said, “Go and tell James* and the others what happened.” Then he left and went to another place.

Acts 12:17 – “Tell James.” This James was a brother of Jesus.

18 When daylight came, there was a great commotion among the soldiers as to what had ever become of Peter.

19 But after Herod had ordered that a thorough search be made for him, and he still couldn’t be found, he questioned the guards and then had them put to death. Herod then left Judea and went down to Caesarea, and spent some time there.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 30 – Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison - [Acts 12:1-19](#)

392. Why was King Herod so cold-hearted toward the church? ([12:1-3](#))

393. Whom did King Herod arrest? ([12:1](#), [3-4](#))

394. Whom did the king have put to death? ([12:2](#))

395. What did Herod do with Peter? Why? ([12:3-4](#))

396. What did the king plan to do with Peter after the Passover? Why? ([12:3-4](#))

397. What did the church do while Peter was in prison? ([12:5](#))
398. While in jail, why didn't Peter seem to fear for his life? ([12:6](#))
399. What happened on the night before Peter's trial? ([12:6-11](#))
400. Who enabled Peter to escape? ([12:7-10](#))
401. How did Peter escape from prison? ([12:7-10](#))
402. When did Peter know that what he had experienced was real? ([12:11](#))
403. Where did Peter go once he realized what had happened? ([12:12](#))
404. What happened when Peter appeared at Mary's door? ([12:13-16](#))
405. Once inside the house, what did Peter say? ([12:17](#))
406. How did the soldiers react when they discovered Peter was gone? ([12:18](#))
407. What did Herod do? ([12:19](#))

Lesson 31 - Herod's Death - [Acts 12:20-25](#)

Herod Killed by an Angel

²⁰Herod had been very angry* with the people of Tyre and Sidon. But because they depended on his territories for their food, they joined forces to gain an audience with him. They made friends with Blastus, the king's servant in charge of the palace, and had him act as their agent in requesting a peace agreement.

Acts 12:20 – “Herod had been very angry, i.e. highly displeased.

²¹So on the day chosen for the meeting, Herod, dressed in his royal robes, sat on his throne and made a speech.

²²The people broke in and began shouting, “It's the voice of a god, not of a man!”

²³Instantly, the angel of the Lord struck him down, because he accepted the honor that belonged to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴But the Lord's message continued to spread into many areas.

²⁵After completing their mission, Barnabas and Paul returned to Antioch from Jerusalem. They also brought John Mark back with them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
Lesson 31 - Herod's Death - [Acts 12:20-25](#)

408. What was Herod's relationship with the cities of Tyre and Sidon? ([12:20](#))
409. Why did the people of Tyre and Sidon want to make peace with Herod? ([12:20](#))
410. Whom did the people appoint to make peace with the king? ([12:20](#))
411. On the day of the public assembly, what did Herod do? ([12:21](#))
412. What did the people say to honor Herod? ([12:22](#))
413. How did God judge Herod? ([12:23](#))
414. How did the work of God continue, in spite of persecution and opposition? ([12:24](#))
415. What did Saul and Barnabas set out to do? ([12:25](#))
416. When the apostles completed their mission in Jerusalem, where did they go? ([12:25](#))
417. Whom did the apostles take with them to Antioch? ([12:25](#))
418. How does the example of Herod serve as a warning to us today?