

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. What is a prayer that you found impossible to deal with and God answered in an incredible way?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Read Please read Acts 11:26 & Acts 12:1-4
 - a. What believers called?
 - b. According to Acts 12:1-2, what happened to the church?
 - c. Who was murdered?
 - d. Who was arrested?
 - e. Would you have given up?
3. Read Acts 12:5.
 - a. What did the church do?
 - b. The NLT uses the word, "earnestly", what do other bible versions use?
 - c. What did the church think was going to happen to Peter?
 - d. If Pastor Ruben said, "everyone who calls ThornCreek their home church, must meet tonight for prayer at 7:00pm, would you show up?" Why or why not?
4. What do you think about this quote from Oswald Chambers?

"We tend to use prayer as a last resort, but God wants it to be our first line of defense. Most of us would prefer, however, to spend our time doing something that will get immediate results. We don't want to wait for God to resolve matters in His good time because His idea of 'good time' is seldom in sync with ours."

5. We can certainly pray privately, on our own, in our own home. Do you think prayer becomes more powerful when a church comes together in one room for prayer? Why or why not?
6. Read Acts 12:6-10. Chains fell off, guards were no longer a threat, and an iron gate opened by itself.

- a. Did you know your prayers can have these kind of results?
 - b. Do you believe in the power of prayer?
 - c. Have you considered your prayers can break the chains of others?
7. Read Acts 12:11-15.
- a. What was the result of the church's fervent prayers?
 - b. Do you really believe God hears your prayers?
8. Continue reading Acts 12:16-19.
- a. What happened?
 - b. Make a commitment to pray every day privately. But, would you make a commitment to pray with your church?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- A praying church is a powerful church.
- "There are parts of our calling, works of the Holy Spirit, and defeats of the darkness that will come no other way than through furious, fervent, faith-filled, unceasing prayer."
- Beth Moore
- When God goes before you, you don't need to kick through doors. "The iron gate opened by itself!"