

# Persecution and Deliverance

## Acts 12

5.19.2024

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Forging Forward

### Reflect

Outline: Recap

### Realize

Points to Ponder

### Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

## REFLECT

There is nothing that followers of Jesus like to discuss less than persecution. For those of us in the West, that's because we value comfort and security, and because we have never experienced governmental attacks and destruction like what we see in the Bible. But we are a minority. Across the globe, many of our brothers and sisters in Christ are experiencing brutal persecution, even as we read this. There is much that we can learn from our text this weekend as we see the church endure tremendous hardship and also miraculous deliverance.

## REALIZE

### 1. Persecution happens.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 12; Matthew 5:11-12
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - How can I better pray for those who are persecuted?

### 2. Peter is miraculously set free.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 12

### 3. Believers sometimes struggle to believe.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 12; Matthew 8:26-27
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - Where am I struggling to believe in God's plan?

### 4. God deserves the glory.

- **Scripture Reference;** Acts 12; Isaiah 42:8
- **Questions for Reflection**
  - How can I live more for God's glory?

### Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?