

Peter's (Not So) Great Escape

Acts 12

WHAT A WEEK!

The church suffers a **loss**.
Acts 12:1-4

The church uses its **power**.
Acts 12:5-12

The church shows its **faith?**
Acts 12:13-19

The church out lives us **all**.
Acts 12:20-25

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER IN A CRISIS

1. Prayer isn't just something we **do**; it's someone we're **with**.
Acts 12:5-12, Matthew 7:7-12, John 15:1-8, Romans 10:14-16, James 5:13-18

2. The opposite of faith is **inaction**; not **doubt**.
Acts 12:9, 11, 15-16, Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 8:23-27

3. It's not the **amount**; it's the **object** of our faith that matters.
Acts 12:5, James 2:17-20, Matthew 17:14-21

4. We ask for what we **want**, but God decides what we **get**.
Acts 12:1-4, 24-25, James 1:16-17

TAKING IT HOME

1. Is there a specific way you deal with crises or is there a lesson you've learned about prayer you'd like to further develop as a result of this week's teaching and study?

2. Is there a certain situation or person you want to keep praying for or would like to ask prayer for?

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The church shows its _____?
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The church out lives us _____.
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FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER IN A CRISIS

1. Prayer isn't just something we ____; it's someone we're _____.
Acts 12:5-12, Matthew 7:7-12, John 15:1-8, Romans 10:14-16, James 5:13-18
2. The opposite of faith is _____; not _____.
Acts 12:9, 11, 15-16, Mark 9:14-29, Matthew 8:23-27
3. It's not the _____; it's the _____ of our faith that matters.
Acts 12:5, James 2:17-20, Matthew 17:14-21
4. We ask for what we _____, but God decides what we _____.
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- **October 25 & 26** The 2008 Weekend of Service is coming soon! We're canceling weekend services and going out into the community to complete service projects of all shapes and sizes. Mark your

calendars: If you haven't signed up yet, don't delay - projects fill up quickly. You can sign up online or during any of our weekend services on all our campuses.



North County Solutions for Change & Bread of Life - We are excited about the involvement for Weekend of Service!! We also need to fill the ongoing commitments we have to our partner organizations. Groups are especially needed during the week for North County Solutions for Change and Bread of Life. Please check out the community service website at <http://www.northcoastchurch.com/service/> for more information on how to serve these organizations!!

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 5, 2008

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at this week's teaching on "Peter's (Not So) Great Escape" was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. What was your response when you heard the early church prayed for Peter's release but then couldn't believe their prayer was answered?

2. Can you think of times when you find it easier to pray than others?

3. When you were growing up, how was crisis handled by the people you lived with (mark any that apply)? Is it any different than how you face it today?

- Bring it on
- God's going to grow us
- Don't tell anybody
- God's here
- Avoid at all costs
- Don't admit it
- Who's fault is it?
- Why does this happen to us?
- Prayer happened
- Other

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We have a variety of expectations of how God responds to us when we pray to Him. What are two or three things we can learn from Luke 11:1-13 about prayer and God's response when we come to Him?

When I pray to God, I sense that He is (be honest about any that apply)...

- not all that interested
- ready to listen
- wondering why I can't focus
- a wise and faithful King ready to guide me
- a compassionate father
- wondering where I've been
- disappointed or even upset with my life
- ready to help
- other

2. We heard this weekend that we're given the freedom to ask for what we want, but that God decides what we get. How might the following verses help you in the midst of a crisis?

Romans 8:1-2

Romans 8:15-18

Romans 8:28

Romans 8:31

Romans 8:35, 38-39

Which of these verses is most important for you to remember and why?

How or when might sharing these verses with someone in crisis be a helpful thing? Is there a time when they might not be helpful (see Romans 12:15)?

3. The early church gives a good example of how a crisis motivates us to pray. In the midst of these crises we often grow in our ability to pray and connect with God. This kind of growth can launch us into new desires and ways to pray for others when the heat isn't on. How could Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-12 help guide your prayer for others beyond the crisis zone?

Suggestion – try re-writing this prayer in your own words for someone you know or yourself.