

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

Acts 12:1-17

Session Summary

Imagine the fear the early Christians must have been feeling. James, one of their most prominent leaders, had been executed, and another, Peter, is in prison awaiting the same fate. With no political power, they threw themselves upon the mercy and power of God. Like the children of Israel at the Red Sea, their only hope was that God would make a way where there was no way. The church in Jerusalem shows us how to respond to crisis—by turning to the God who reigns. When our lives are out of control, God is still in control. God is not bound by human limitations, governments, or even the laws of nature. Though, at times, it seems that we can do nothing, God can do anything. Fervent prayer is an action that shows that we truly believe in such a God.

We will all face situations where our trust in God will be tested. That was certainly the case for the early church in Acts 12. The gospel is a constant reminder that God can be trusted, even when our situation tempts us to question His love and power. We demonstrate that trust through prayer. You can pray when you read your Bible, when you shower, when you are getting ready, or when you are riding down the road. You can pray anytime and anywhere. We can go to God with everything, for no problem is too small for His care or too big for His power.

- What are some unhealthy ways to respond to a crisis?
- What should we do when God isn't answering our prayers in the way we had hoped?
- How can we be sure of God's love and faithfulness even when bad things are happening in our lives?
- What can we do to pray more throughout the day?

Set aside a time each day this week to pray as a family. This should be in addition to any prayers over a meal or going to bed. You could play some worship music and let each person pray for a few minutes on their own. They could kneel, walk around the house, or sit at the kitchen table. Then, have a designated time when you will come back together and pray as a family for and with each other.