

“The Edge” Sunday, October 10, 2010
Praying With Faith

Read [Acts 12:1-19](#) together and answer the following questions.

1. In verses 1 – 4 we learn that King Herod has killed James and has Peter arrested. Talk about suffering and following Christ. Do believers today face persecution? What are some reasons that people persecute Christians? What kinds of persecution have you faced for your faith? Pray that you will honor the Lord even if you have to suffer persecution for His name’s sake.
2. James was killed as a result of persecution, while Peter was rescued from death by God – how does God’s providence and promises relate to this seeming inequality?
3. Like Herod, can you think of a time when you have acted wrongly for the sake of pleasing someone, or to fit in somewhere? What were the consequences of your actions?
4. How quickly and persistently do you resort to prayer?
5. Do we as believers always ask for the right things? Do we always have “enough” faith that God will answer as we ask?
6. Talk about prayer. What does prayer do? What are some reasons that we don’t pray? What happens when we fail to pray? How are confidence/faith and prayer tied together? What are some things that you need to be praying about today? Take time to “cast those cares upon Him” in prayer.
7. How do the details of Peter’s imprisonment (verses 4 & 6) make his escape all the more dramatic?
8. The earnest prayer of the church significantly affected the outcome of events in this story. Discuss how your motivation to pray is influenced by this truth?
9. What was Herod’s response to the escape of Peter (verse 19)? Is there any evidence of personal conviction in Herod that might cause him to think God might be behind this?
10. Pray together as a family and thank God that we always answers your prayers (yes, no, and grow). Ask him to help you pray with faith and confidence. Ask him to reveal His will to you so that you may always pray according to His will. Commit a daily time of prayer to Him (start small and go from there). Then hold one another accountable and do it. Never forget that nothing is too small or too big for God.

For further discussion topics on this subject read the following:

- [Luke 17:6](#)
- [1 John 5:14-15](#)
- [Romans 8:26-27](#)
- [1 Peter 5:7-11](#)
- [Mark 9:23-24](#)