

## Expecting God to Show Up

*About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. vv. 1-3*

### I. Expect God to show up in His \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. v. 6*

### II. Expect God to show up in His \_\_\_\_\_ .

*And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. v. 7*

### III. Expect God to show up when we \_\_\_\_\_ .

*So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. ... And when he knocked at the door of the gateway a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. vv. 5, 13-16*

### A New Way to Live with Great Expectations



\_\_\_\_\_ for God's miraculous intervention even when it seems impossible.

\_\_\_\_\_ God's direction through the open doors He provides.

\_\_\_\_\_ in God's sovereign purpose even when it seems to make no earthly sense.





### Spanish-Speaking Outreach

We're excited to be taking new steps toward a Spanish-speaking outreach here in Fort Worth! As Dr. Ef Salcedo serves in El Salvador, you can stay up to date along the way by signing up for his newsletter.

### Communion

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Cor 11:26). Learn more about how we remember Jesus and proclaim Him as our risen Savior through the Lord's Supper.



## HOME GROUP

# Lesson + Devotional

*Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.*

1. Read Acts 12:1-19. Why did Herod persecute the church?
2. What part did the believers in Jerusalem have in Peter's escape from Herod?
3. God saved Peter from execution, but He allowed James to die (v. 2). What conclusions about prayer and deliverance can we draw from these facts?
4. Do you believe your prayers matter? What role does our obedience play in this?
5. Why are we often surprised by God's answers to our prayers, as the church was at Peter's release from jail?
6. How do you think the church's prayer life might have been different after Peter's release?
7. If you asked a request of the Lord and He answered "no" or "not yet" because that was the best way to develop Christlikeness in you at that time, would you respond in worship and yield to His sovereignty and wisdom? Or how might you respond instead, and why?
8. In what situation are you waiting for God to "show up" right now? How did the sermon encourage you in that, and what insight about God did it give you?

## HELPFUL Quotes

We can't expect the Lord always to do as we ask or to give us exactly what we want. (In my own prayers, I stopped telling God how to fulfill my requests a long time ago.) Even so, we can be sure He will always do what is right and will always act in the long-term best interests of everyone involved. No matter how your circumstances turn out after earnest prayer, assure yourself with these words—repeat them as often as necessary: The Lord is right in all His ways (see Deut 32:4 and Dan 4:37). - Charles Swindoll

It may remain to us a perplexing question why James was slain and Peter delivered. There is no explanation. Nevertheless, the revelation of the facts is reassuring. That God delivered Peter proves His power to have delivered James. That He did not deliver James proves that the death of James was also within the compass of His will, and we know that in the great Unveiling all will be seen to have been right.

- G. Campbell Morgan

## YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



### Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

### Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



### Partner With Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

### Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



## A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God. **(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)**
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good. **(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)**
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead. **(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)**
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life. **(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:**

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!