



ACTS CHAPTERS 12 & 13 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What are the differences between courage and fear? Do you consider yourself to be a more courageous person or a more fearful person? Why?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Acts 12:1-25 & Acts 13:1-52)

Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Acts 12:1-19

- Why is the response of the church to Peter's imprisonment interesting and important to note?
 - The church could have very easily gone into hiding out of fear for what would happen next. One of their primary leaders had been taken and he wasn't the first Christian to be taken. Many others had been ripped from their families and killed. Yet, we don't see the church shrinking back. Rather, the church is passionately and eagerly going to the Source that they know can change everything. The church also isn't seen here designing innovative programs and/or strategies. Rather, they are simply praying to the One who holds all people and circumstances in His hands.
 - What do you think your personal response would have been if you were in a situation similar to that of the church and Peter?



- In what ways do you need to more fully release circumstances to the Lord rather than trying to come up with your own strategies and solutions?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is the church's response in verse 15 especially fascinating in light of their prayers?
 - We would expect that the church would be eagerly anticipating work that God was going to do. Yet, they weren't only shocked that Peter could possibly be out of prison. They didn't even believe Rhoda and told her that she was out of her mind when she had seen Peter with her physical eyes.
 - How do you and I sometimes act like the church that we see in verse 15?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Acts 12:20-25

- Notice that in this story the word of God continues to move, thrive, and spread independent of any hindrances, obstacles, and human beings. What should this tell us about God's relationship with us and our relationship with Him?
 - God passionately wants us, but the reality is that God doesn't need us and although this reality is certainly humbling, it makes the fact that God has chosen to work through human beings even more stunningly beautiful and humbling.

Acts 13:1-12

- Do you consider yourself to be a minister and a missionary? Why or why not?



- This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice in verse 9 what precedes Paul's courage and boldness in verse 10. Why is this important to understand?
 - Many times, it is easy for us (even as Christians) to default to respond how we want to, to respond in ways that we think are best, and to respond in ways that "puts other people in their proper place." However, Paul's response is first preceded by him being filled with the Holy Spirit so that he's not responding as he sees fit but as God is filling him.

Acts 13:13-41

- What are some of the stories that Paul tells the Jews and Gentiles in this passage and why are these stories significant?
 - Answers will vary regarding the stories that Paul tells. All of these stories have some common threads that make them extremely important. First, all of these stories point to God moving on behalf of people to accomplish His will and fulfill His promises. Second, all of these stories point to Jesus being Good News, and the source of healing and deliverance that all people needed.
 - What are stories that you intentionally share that point to the following?
 - God moving on your behalf
 - God moving on behalf of the world
 - Jesus and His love
 - Jesus and the need of all people to accept Jesus
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.



Acts 13:42-52

- What are some of your biggest concerns/fears in sharing your faith and/or sharing about God? How does this passage provide encouragement regarding your biggest concerns and fears? What is challenging about this passage regarding your biggest concerns/fears in sharing your faith?
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Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Acts 12 & 13)



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