

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## Acts Series

These questions are for the **May 3, 2020** sermon, "The Final Word." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 12:1-25) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

IN HARD TIMES, NOTE HOW GOD'S SOVEREIGN PURPOSES UNFOLD . . .

1. Through the earnest prayers he hears. (1-5)
  - a. "The Lord was accomplishing more in my imprisonment than in my being free."  
-Andrew Brunson, missionary to Turkey
  - b. No jail, no virus, no perceived barrier is sovereign over the purposes of God.
    - i. In the midst of restrictions, God is supernaturally releasing the gospel.
    - ii. We are called to believe this and to "stretch out" in prayer before him.
2. Through the timely ways he works. (6-11)
  - a. God works a rescue plan in response to the prayers of his people.
    - i. Why does God say "yes" to some and "no" to other righteous prayers?
    - ii. We do not know, except to trust his sovereign, eternal and good purposes.
  - b. Herod's hand is not able to keep grasp over that which God's hand is freeing.
3. Through the opposite reactions he produces. (12-19)
  - a. Believers are amazed, shaken (in a good way) and will rejoice. (12-17)
  - b. Unbelievers and opponents often become frustrated and angry. (18-19)
4. Through the exclusive glory he possesses. (20-25)
  - a. Herod receives glory and praise which should be reserved for God alone
  - b. But it is God's Word which increases and multiplied. To God alone be the glory!

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How do you feel restricted today? How has the fact that you cannot influence some desired outcome produced a prayerful "stretching out" before the Lord?
2. Based on #2, above: In what ways have you struggled when God has said "no" to your prayers? In what ways have you grown through this struggle? How is God truly good in the "no"?
3. Based on #2, above: In what way have you seen a period of waiting turned into a "yes" from God? Do you believe that God still does miracles? Does your current prayer life prove it?
4. Based on #3, above: Unbelievers react to God's sovereign control over the universe with frustration and anger. But how should believers respond to their frustration and anger? Do you respond to your enemies (and God's enemies) with love (Luke 6:27) goodness, grace (Luke 6:35) and prayer (Matthew 5:44)? Give an example of how you have triumphed in this area.
5. Based on #4, above: God alone should receive glory. Every nation or leader puts forth their plans, but it is the intentions of God which perfectly come to pass (Jeremiah 18). God will always have the final say. How does this instruct your faith, joy and peace?