

13 THE UNRIVALED KING

KEY TEXT: ACTS 12:1-10,21-25

CENTRAL truth

With one apostle killed and another in prison, the early church was in desperate need for God to intervene. Their fervent prayers were answered, proving once again that **God is the true King who responds to the prayers of His people.**

key question

How does Peter's rescue reflect the way Jesus has rescued us?

God rescued Peter from bondage by His power alone. Peter merely responded in faith to what was taking place. Similarly, God in Christ has rescued us from our bondage to sin. The cross is the pinnacle of God's work to liberate His people.

keep in mind

- Peter experienced a physical rescue by God. For many of us, we still long to see loved ones experience God's spiritual rescue through belief in the gospel. Take time as a group to pray for those friends and family members. Encourage students to follow the example of the early church to remain fervent in prayer.
- This week's passage reveals a seemingly huge blow to the early church. One apostle was killed and another was thrown into prison. Yet God proved to be the King who wields all authority. Students are not ignorant to the brokenness and pain in our world. Remind them of God's ongoing care in painful circumstances and that—in His timing—He will deal with the brokenness we experience.

application

Why is it important that we share our stories of how God rescued us?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Remind students that God is not oblivious to their prayers. They need to know that they can trust Him as the true, all-powerful King who responds to the prayers of His people.

FOR THE LEADER: It can be frustrating and discouraging to have a prayer answered in a way we don't like. Leaders have the opportunity for their group to be a safe place for students to process these feelings as they learn to trust the Lord.

SUMMER
2024