

Acts 12
God's Grace in Suffering

Acts 12:1-11 King Herod Persecutes the Church

(Colossians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

1) Prayer should be _____ and *for* a time.

Verses 12-19 The Church's Surprise

(2 Samuel 12:14&22-23, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Genesis 3:1b&4-5, Job 1:20-22)

2) The power of prayer is based on _____
_____, not how well I pray.

3) When problems arise - my job is to _____, God's job
is to do what is _____.

4) When tragedy hits - Focus on what you _____
rather than on what you _____.

(a) This life is _____, eternity is _____

(b) God _____

(c) Stay _____ and keep worshipping.

Verses 20-24 The Death of Herod

(Matthew 5:45, Job 19:25-27)

5) Suffering is a small sample of _____ - and invites us
to repent and get right with God before it is too late.

6) Suffering is a litmus test for _____ - revealing
our faith to be genuine or not, and invites us to go
deeper with God than we ever have before!

7) Suffering can lead us to bitterness, despair, or self-
satisfaction... Or to a reconsideration of what

Acts 12
God's Grace in Suffering

Acts 12:1-11 King Herod Persecutes the Church

(Colossians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

1) Prayer should be *all the time* _____ and *for* a time.

Verses 12-19 The Church's Surprise

(2 Samuel 12:14&22-23, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Genesis 3:1b&4-5, Job 1:20-22)

2) The power of prayer is based on *Who I pray* _____
to _____, not how well I pray.

3) When problems arise - my job is to *pray* _____, God's job
is to do what is *best* _____.

4) When tragedy hits - Focus on what you *know* _____
rather than on what you *don't* _____.

(a) This life is *short* _____, eternity is *forever* _____

(b) God *loves you* _____

(c) Stay *humble* _____ and keep worshipping.

Verses 20-24 The Death of Herod

(Matthew 5:45, Job 19:25-27)

5) Suffering is a small sample of *hell* _____ - and invites us
to repent and get right with God before it is too late.

6) Suffering is a litmus test for *faith* _____ - revealing
our faith to be genuine or not, and invites us to go
deeper with God than we ever have before!

7) Suffering can lead us to bitterness, despair, or self-
satisfaction... Or to a reconsideration of what

lasts _____

Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Which one of these passages is the most motivating or encouraging to you? Why?

- 7) What practical steps would you give a friend who struggles to focus on (or live for) eternity?

- 8) What temptations or lies most hinder you from keeping an eternal perspective?

TAKING IT HOME

- 9) Looking over your notes and homework, is there anything you need to put into practice or change?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of May 30, 2021

This is the last week of Life Groups for this quarter! We'll take a break for the summer. The next quarter will start in September.

If you are currently in a Life Group, please fill out the Life Group Survey. This will tell us if we should save your spot, or make room for others, as well as give us feedback to make your group better. You can find the survey at www.OpenGateFellowship.com/LifeGroups or by scanning the QR code on the right. Paper versions are available in the church foyer. Thank you!



Scan the code, or go to:

- www.OpenGateFellowship.com
- Click on the "Life Groups" tab.
- Click the button for the survey.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) Find something in your house that represents who God was to you this past year. Bring it to your group and be ready to talk about it. Feel free to have fun with this, while also sharing why it is meaningful.

- 2) Looking back at this past quarter, how has your Life Group experience encouraged, challenged or helped you in your walk with Jesus and in connecting with other people?

REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) What stands out to you from the following passages about prayer?

Colossians 4:2 - *"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;"*

Philippians 4:6 - *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;"*

James 4:2c-3 - *"... Yet you do not have because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures."*

1 Samuel 12:23 - *"Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way."*

- 5) Corrie ten Boom was a bold Christian woman who took great personal risks to love and protect Jews during the Holocaust. Her faith remained strong even when she was captured and sent to a concentration camp herself. How do the following quotes encourage or challenge you?

"Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden."

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."
-Corrie ten Boom*

- 6) What stands out to you from the following passages?

Hebrews 12:1-3 - *"[1] Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, [2] looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls."*

2 Timothy 4:6-8 - *"[6] For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."*

Isaiah 55:8-9 - *"[8] For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."*