



Christ builds his Church through the Spirit empowered proclamation of the Word – despite many conflicts in the battles of a fallen world — even in and through those conflicts.

Thinking & talking through the biblical text during the week helps turn what God is saying into action steps. Here are some questions to get you started.

Reflection Questions

- What questions and comments do you have about the sermon and supporting texts?
- What stands out to you in the first 12 chapters of Acts?
- What are the key elements that are used by Peter, Stephen and Saul in declaring the gospel?

Read **Acts 12**

- Why do you think severe persecution is arising against leaders of the early church?
- Why was Peter thrown into jail?
- Why do North America Christians sometimes view any criticism or questioning of their actions as persecution? Is this valid (both the questioning, criticism and calling that persecution)? Why or why not? How can we respond more like Jesus might?
- What stands out to you about Peter's "escape" from jail, and the subsequent events?
- How and why did Herod die?
- What does "*the word of God*" in v24 mean (hint: it is not the Bible)?
- Why were there "*many new believers*"?
- Robert E. Coleman, in "***The Master Plan of Evangelism***" writes: *"Like mustard seeds and leaven, the kingdom of God advances when regular Christians, not just pastors, work their way relationally into a few lives that then work their way relationally into the lives of others."* How do you respond to this statement?
- The gospel message, in Acts, begins to spread from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Where are you engaging with people? What excuses do we use not to be a messenger of the gospel? What is ground-breaking in the proclamation of the gospel?

Thinking & living a little deeper

- Pray for our brothers & sisters, around the world, who are imprisoned because of Jesus. To learn more go to opendoorsca.org or vomcanada.com.
- How are you speaking and living the gospel in your circle of relationships? What is stopping you from taking it further?