



The Chapel  
March 2, 2025  
Paul Klouse

Week 8: Expect Opposition  
Scripture: Acts 12

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### 1. OPEN IN PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

- Have a group member pray, invite the Holy Spirit to lead, and fill your time together.

### 2. GETTING STARTED: (10 MINUTES)

- Question: Share about a time you faced opposition or you saw someone else who faced some type of opposition.

### 3. READ ACTS 12 TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)

- Ask one or two group members to read the passage aloud.

### 4. DISCUSS (30 MINUTES)

#### Understanding the Passage:

- Acts 12:1-3 details more persecution for the Early Church. Throughout history, what has made Christianity so susceptible to persecution? Why didn't this intense persecution occur during Jesus' earthly ministry? How do we see similar challenges for Christians today?
- In Acts 12:5, the church was earnestly praying. What do you think they were specifically asking God for? Why do you think God sent an angel to rescue Peter but allowed James to be killed earlier? Do you believe God would have acted if the church had not prayed for Peter's release? What does this teach us about prayer and God's will?
- Acts 12:5-10 tells of a supernatural event. Where did the light in the prison cell come from? What specific details can we observe about the angel in this passage - what do they reveal about God's power and presence?
- Why do many people believe in the idea of guardian angels? What biblical passages or personal experiences might support this belief?
- Pastor Paul noted that we can trust in God's sovereignty, trust in the power of community, and never underestimate what God may do. How does each one of these help us navigate opposition in our lives? Can you think of a time when one of these made a difference for you?

### **Applying the Message:**

- In John 15 & 16, Jesus told his disciples that they should expect opposition and that those who oppose "...have not known the Father or me." He did this to strengthen their faith so they wouldn't fall away. How does knowing this help us? What practical steps can we take to prepare ourselves for opposition?
- What are some practical ways we can support & encourage believers who are facing persecution for their faith?

### **5. LIVE IT OUT: (10 MINUTES)**

- Identify **one area in your life** where you may experience opposition this week. This could include:
  - Sharing your faith with a coworker, friend, or family member.
  - Praying boldly for someone who is struggling or in need.
  - Standing firm in your faith or values in a challenging situation.
  - Speaking encouragement or truth when it feels uncomfortable.
- **Action Plan:** Write down who you feel God is calling you to impact and what bold step you can take. Pray specifically for your response and for the Holy Spirit to lead you.

### **6. CLOSING PRAYER (5 MINUTES)**

- Ask God to fill everyone with the same patience and endurance as seen in the disciples. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each person to speak, act, and live in a way that points others to Jesus.
- Give the group a moment to silently ask God for courage in a specific area of their life this week (refer to the Live it Out section).