

Prisonbreak Acts 12:1-19 CCH AAS SMPS

- Next instalment Acts. Title: **WHO IS BIG?!**
- Really exciting **Prisonbreak** story today.
- Let's act out 4 scenes as we ask this Q!

1) PERSECUTION (v1-4)

[Herod/James/Peter/Soldiers] Helpers. Gate

- Cerianne v1-4: **v1**
- Let's have a **HEROD- James L?!**
- This is Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod who tried to kill baby Jesus. Not much better
- Jewish King who was unjust and cruel.
- **v2**
- **SOLDIERS- Joshua & Jon? JAMES – Ben W?**
- James & John- fishermen, closest disc-mountain, Jairus daughter.
- Act out- gutting!
- 1verse. Not much written but what a shock!
- Imagine messg church whatsapp/weekly.
- **v3**
- Oh dear Herod only interested being popular and if it's popular to hate Christians he'll hate Christians. **PETER- William? Chains.**
- just after the Passover, a time when didn't have trials in court, so had to wait in prison.
- Did you see maximum security prison he's in.
- **v4**
- 16 men guarding one man! 4 squads of 4! Stand up!
- Herod really doesn't want this guy to escape!
- Peter is probably about to die.
- ➡ Before move onto sc2. **WHO'S BIG?**
- Herod. Looks pretty scary.
- People didn't like Jesus. don't like Christians.
- Back then killed. Some parts of the world same.
- Today at work or at school people think we are weird. Find it hard to understand Xty.
- Even say unkind things because different.
- Even feel what we believe is dangerous or harmful to others. Not true, but mustn't be alarmed.
- In fact Peter himself wrote a letter in the NT said: *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

- So 1) PERSECUTION .
- **WHO'S BIG?** Looks like Herod.
- Dark days for the church.
- Actually, God is bigger! As going to see.
- Trust him.
- PERSECUTION.

2) PRAYER (v5) [us- crowd]

v5

- Where turn in a crisis?
- The internet, our friends, our family?
- These guys turn to the Lord.
- And look at that word *earnestly*.
- It means they were really serious.
- **urgent, heartfelt, fervent, EARNEST prayer**
- They didn't just send a text with a prayer emoji. They got together and they prayed like Peter's life depended on it. Which it did.
- Let's act it out.
- Going to pray Korean syle. Everyone has to pray at the same time. Let's act out praying for Peter.
(Lord you've got to rescue Peter, we can't lose our apostle, have mercy Lord. Don't let Herod stop him from sharing your good news. We don't want another James. Help Lord, help!)
- ➡ Who's Big?
- Herod or God.
- If it's Herod we can give up straight away.
- If God is bigger than persecution, prisons and proud rulers then we can turn to him.
- I'm convinced when bad things happen we need to learn to pray to God quicker.
- Why our MondayPM and CPM so important.
- But as families and with friends. Does it feel a bit pious to stop and pray?
- We should, cos as we're going to see Who's Big? God and he answers prayer.
- Need to learn to do this. Kids- remind your parents.
- PRAY! number of prayer meetings in book.

We're going to sing now.

Nothing's too Big for his power.

- Not Herod.
- Not the school bully.
- Not the work tribunal.
- Not the intensive care ward.

When we pray we remember this!

Nor too small!

3) PRISONBREAK (v6-11) [4 Soldiers, Pet, Angel]

Now it gets really exciting.

- Herod wants to kill Peter, the church is praying for his release
- Who's Big?

Shall we act out the story? Need

- PETER (cloak on side)
- 2 SOLDIERS (chained)
- ANGEL (torch)

v6 through in jail (stairgate). asleep- v peaceful. trusting God. Serious security.

v7 torch

8- 10 verse by verse. sleepy and needs single step commands!

Wow- Who's big? God.

v11 Peter couldn't quite believe it!

- For the 2nd time God needs to convince him of something.
- Like in ch10, he realised something new.
- God doesn't show favouritism
- The Lord rescued me!

Wow who's Big? God is real. He answers prayer.

- Peter needed persuading.
- **We need persuading**
 - Who's Big!
 - God can do anything.
 - Do you believe that?
- Church certainly needed persuading!

Let's just use some **emojis** for how story gone.

- PERSEC- Sad & scary .
- PRAYER- Serious & looking up
- PRISON- Exciting and Phew.
- Last one- Funny and brilliant!

4) PADLOCKED DOOR [Rhoda= Mary?!!]

Think it's all over? Far harder getting into the prayer meeting than out of the prison!

v12-19 by verse acted out. Not a perfect portrait of the church!;

- Wow in those days if you let a prisoner escape, you would face the punishment he was due to face. Seriously ruthless.
- The church have been praying and God answers, and they weren't expecting it.
- They called someone mad for reporting the thing they were praying for!
- It's so like us isn't it.
- We know God is big at one level. But do we really act like it.
- We might pray, but we might not expect answers to our prayers.
- Yes there are times when God chooses not to answer our prayers the way that we would want.
- But other times, we pray, but we just don't really believe he can do it.
- He can!
- Wonderfully he can even answer prayer when we don't quite believe it!
- And particularly for the spread of the gospel which is where v24 ends.
- James' work was done, and he was taken home- he died.
- Peter had more work to be done.
- So God set him free from Prison.

The whole world has to answer right now just to tell you once again...Who's BIG?! God.

Do we believe it? ***persecution, prisons, padlocked doors, proud rulers, nothing is too difficult for God!*** Remember Monday morning!

- 1) **Kids** have you got that? Scary teacher.
- 2) **Teenagers** have you got that? When your best friend ignores you and gossips about you to others.
- 3) **Singles?** Have you got that, feel alone.
- 4) **Parents.** Covid takes your summer plans by surprise.
- 5) **Grandparents.** Face hospital or sickness.

Who is big? God is.

Trust him. He's working out his purposes for the spread of his gospel. PRAY.