



# Oakwood

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## CHURCH

### February 7 Discussion Questions “Sovereign Over Suffering” Acts 12:1-19

#### **Preview**

*The Light of Truth brings hope into the darkness of suffering*

1. **God** is in control, not any other authority (v. 1,23; 7,10)
2. **Prayer** connects us with God’s wisdom and power (v. 5,9,14-15,17)
  - **When you don’t know what to do, go to the One who is perfect in knowledge, infinite in wisdom!**
  - **When you can’t fix the problem, cry out to the One who can fix every problem!**
  - **When you feel weak and exhausted, rest in the arms of the One who never sleeps or slumbers, who never grows weary.**
3. **Results** depend on God’s will, not our worthiness (v. 2,16-17)

#### **Connect**

1. What inconveniences or “pet peeves” most bother you? Why do you think this is?
2. What are some common examples of setbacks or inconveniences Christians face in advancing God’s mission? How might our struggles be different from those in other countries?

**Pray & Read Acts 12:1-19**

## ***Discuss***

3. What challenge did the church experience in v.1-2? Do you think the disciples saw this as a setback to their mission? Do you think God saw this as a setback to His mission? Why or why not?
4. How does God's sovereignty challenge our perspective on suffering?
5. What did the church do in response to Peter's imprisonment? To what degree do you think this contributed to Peter's rescue?
6. Peter was rescued but James wasn't (surely many prayers were offered up for his safety as well). How should we react to our prayers God doesn't answer? How has this specifically challenged your faith in the past?
7. What is an amazing prayer request God has answered in your life? How did this build up your faith? (Encourage everyone to share.)
8. How do you think God used Peter's deliverance to advance His cause among both believers and unbelievers?

## ***Apply***

9. What supposed setback in your life might God be challenging you to change your perspective on? How does God's goodness and sovereignty inform your new perspective?
10. What significant prayer request do you need renewed energy to pray for? What is a big miracle you need to start praying for regularly? How does this passage encourage you to do this?
11. God kept Peter alive because His will for him was not yet complete. Since you also are still alive, what do you believe God wills for you to complete? Does anything specific come to mind?

## ***Missional Check-In***

12. How have you seen God at work this past week?
13. What opportunities did you have this week to shine His light?
14. What is one intentional step you can take this coming week to be a witness for Christ?

## ***Prayer***

Spend time thanking God for answering past prayer requests. Then pray specifically for Him to accomplish those larger things on your heart.

## ***Church-Wide Prayer Focus, from the Prayer Team***

**Personal Prayer Focus:** Please pray for strength and peace for believers here and abroad who are persecuted for their faith.