

- I. The church encountered violent opposition (v. 1-4)
 - A. The Apostle James was killed
 - B. The Apostle Peter was put in prison
- II. God conducts a prison break for Peter (v. 5-11)
 - A. The church was earnestly praying

“This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask –we know that we have what we asked of him.” (I John 5:14-15)

- B. Peter was peacefully sleeping

“I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.” (Psalm 4:8)

- C. Peter was awakened by a rescuing angel

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” (Psalm 91:11)

- D. Peter obeyed the angel’s instructions

- E. Peter was miraculously rescued

- F. Peter gave God the glory

- III. Peter is reunited with the praying church (v. 12-17)
 - A. Peter struggled to get into the prayer meeting

*Picture of Cartoon

- B. The church struggled to believe God had answered

“‘If you can?’ said Jesus, ‘Everything is possible for him who believes.’ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’” (Mark 9:23-24)

- C. The church was amazed at what God had done

- D. Peter gave witness to the miraculous rescue

“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (I Peter 3:12)

- IV. The enemies of God are punished (v. 18-23)
 - A. Herod accepts the praise of men as a god

*Picture of ruins of Herod's palace

B. God punished Herod with swift justice

C. Herod dies a painful death

"The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death." (Proverbs 11:19)

V. The church continues to prosper (v. 24-25)

A. The church continues to grow

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
(Matthew 16:18)

B. The church continues to spread the gospel