

'Don't be Surprised!'

(part of X 'the Ask' series – 9/23/12)

Big idea . . .

Our desire is for you and the GENESIS Community to have a 'compelling testimony' of God at work in us and the life of our church. In light of this, we 'Ask' God for God-centered, God-sized things. In looking at Acts 12:1-17, we see an example of the church Asking God for the impossible and in this we learn several things about God:

- a. God will use adversity in our lives to lead us to a place where all we can do is 'earnestly' Ask God to do only what God can do!
- b. God is moved to action by the prayers of people.
- c. God is not limited by our Ask – He can & will do immeasurably more!
- d. God moves in us so that we might move others towards Him!

Discussion Questions . . .

1. Our desire is that as individuals and as a community we'd have a great testimony of how God worked in our midst this year. With about 100 days left in the year, what would you like your testimony be at the end of this year? How is this affecting your prayer life, your time in Scripture, and how you live relationally with others?
2. When Peter showed up at the house where the people of God had gathered to pray for Peter, they did not believe it was Peter knocking at the door. It almost as if they did not believe the prayers they were praying because they were in disbelief that Peter could be standing at their door. Question – do you believe God will answer your Ask? Do you believe He will answer the church Ask? Would it surprise you to see God answer these Ask's? If no – why?
3. Often it is our deep need, suffering, or pain that drives us to depend on God more and more. How has God used 'adversity' in your life to drive you to depend on Him more? God does not want us to only come to Him when we have a need, but to live lives of constant dependence on Him – this was modeled for us by Jesus (see [John 5:19](#)). What would it look like for you to depend on Him in all things at all times?
4. The church in Acts 12 saw God move in amazing and unexpected ways because of prayer. What might happen if we committed to continually being in fervent prayer for God to move in our lives? In the lives of those around you? Does the reality that God is moved to action by the prayers of His people motivate you to pray?
5. God wants us to have a 'compelling testimony', like Peter did in Acts 12 in order that we can tell others that God is real, powerful and answers prayer. What story is God working in your life right now and how can you use that story to encourage or point others toward God?

Announcements –

- **'workers'** – sign-up today to be a 'worker' at GENESIS. Learn more about SERVING with GENESIS by visiting the GENESIS website – <http://www.genesisjourney.com/blog/post/do-you-see-what-i-see>
- **Beginnings Brunch** – this Sunday, August 30th at 10:30AM, the GENESIS Connections Team will be hosting a brunch for all the new (or newer) people to GENESIS over the past month. If you've brought a friend to GENESIS recently, please invite them to join you this coming Sunday for the Beginnings Brunch so they can learn more about GENESIS and how to connect within the community.
- **the City** – GENESIS will launch the City on Sunday, September 30th. The City will be a new way for GENESIS to communicate and connect with one another. Learn more about the City via the GENESIS Blog – www.genesisjourney.com/blog
- **Trash Day** – GENESIS will gather at 4PM on Sunday, October 7th in the Woburn Common to pick-up trash in and around the City. We've told the Mayor's office that there will be 100 people ready to serve and bless the City of Woburn.

sunday worship gathering at 9am & 11AM www.genesisjourney.com