

Transition:

James, the brother of John, has been killed and Herod seeks Peter's life to please the Jews. In many ways and at many times it looked as if God's plans would fail. God's people would be imprisoned, threatened or even killed for their obedience. Often it looked as if there was no way out – but thank God for the prayers of the church in which he was rescued!

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do they mean by "it was his angel?" Do we all have one?
2. Why didn't the church believe Rhoda if they were praying for Peter?
3. Peter thought he was seeing a vision, yet it was real, how is this so?
4. Should we be surprised when the miraculous happens? Why or why not?

Fundamental:

Angels – the scripture says, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels." We live in a world where the unseen realm is affecting what happens in the physical - meaning the spiritual is more real than physical. The Bible is clear that angels are ministers to those who are to inherit salvation. We see time and time again the Lord's army ready for battle and to aid those to whom He sends. It's time to wake up and call on the Lord to send angels if we are ever in a place where Peter and the Lord's chosen were.

1. Do we still believe in biblical angels? What would be their purpose?
2. Why do we pray for the Lord to help? (Ps 46:1)
3. Have you entertained an angel unawares?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Search the Scriptures and learn the difference between cherubim, seraphim, the angel of the Lord, the Destroyer, etc. Learn what different angel's functions are.
2. Please read Acts 13 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Share a personal story if you have one where you may have entertained an angel unawares. Or share a story of somehow miraculously escaping a situation.

Prayer:

Like Elisha, pray we have our eyes opened to the Lord's army who are ready to do battle.