

## LIVING VICTORIOUSLY

### 4. When Facing a Crisis

*(Leader's Notes)*



#### Introduction

Every day, somewhere in the world, there is a crisis taking place! Most of us will have experienced a crisis in our own lives too. How do we respond during this time? How can we live victoriously, even when a crisis affects us, or our family? Let's look at a crisis that the Apostle Peter and the early church went through. You may like to read the entire story in Acts 12:1-19.

- ✘ What crisis did the early church face? Acts 12:1-5

*(Some of the early church leaders were arrested by King Herod. James the brother of John, was killed and Peter was put in prison.)*

- ✘ Put yourself in Peter's shoes! How do you think you would have felt knowing that Herod had killed James?

*(Most of us in Peter's shoes would have been fearful of what was going to happen to us! If King Herod had killed James, he could kill us.)*

- ✘ Describe how Peter was delivered in verses 6-10.

- ✘ There is a saying that goes like this: "What we can do, we are expected to do, but what we cannot do, God will do for us." What was Peter expected to do, and what did God do in the midst of this crisis he faced? Acts 12:7-10

*(Peter was chained in a prison cell, with no way to escape. God intervened miraculously, and an angel released him from his chains and the prison! However the angel instructed Peter to get dressed and follow him into the street.)*

- ✘ Have you recently faced a crisis? What did God do for you at that time, and what did you have to do? Share your experience.

Often when we face a crisis, we panic and are overcome with fear. It may result in sleepless nights as we worry and fret. We don't know how Peter felt, but he was sound asleep when the angel came to his prison cell!

- ✘ Describe in your own words what happened next? Acts 12:12-19.

- ✘ How did those who had been praying for Peter respond when they saw him? V14-16

*(The servant girl was overjoyed and rushed to tell them Peter was at the door, but those who had been praying were sceptical.)*

- ✠ Despite the response, God heard their prayer! Share from your own experience the difference prayer has made when you faced a crisis – either your prayer, or the prayer of others.

### **Conclusion**

A crisis usually comes unexpectedly and we don't have time to prepare. However a crisis never takes God by surprise and he is always there with us. Call out to him to help you. Ask others to pray for you. God is able to intervene in your situation when you put your trust in him. Nothing is impossible with him.