



UNSHAKEABLE

THE ROCK

Acts 12:1 – 25, Psalm 62:2 (ESV)

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MESSAGE NOTES

Reach down from heaven and rescue me; rescue me from deep waters ... – Psalm 144:7 (NLT)

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. – Psalm 62:2 (NLT)

Lean into the Rock of Christ:

- **Even when life is challenging**

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. – Acts 12:1 – 3 (ESV)

"For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name." – Acts 9:16 (ESV)

And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. – Acts 12:4 – 5 (ESV)

- **Even when it feels like midnight**

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. – Acts 12:6 (ESV)

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. – Psalm 40:2 (ESV)

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

– Acts 12:7 – 11 (ESV)



- **Even when doubts surface**

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed. But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place. — Acts 12:12 – 17 (ESV)

But the word of God increased and multiplied. — Acts 12:24 (ESV)

"... I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." — Matthew 18:3 – 4 (NLT)

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will never be shaken. — Psalm 62:2 (NLT)



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Discuss why curve balls are so challenging to return in any sport? Share why curve balls in life are difficult to respond to as well?
- Read Psalm 62:2. Sometimes when we go through trials we think God is not working or He must not be loving. Why is it natural to wrestle with these feelings, and yet, why is it the farthest thing from the truth?
- Life can be full of “*James moments*” (unexpected hardship) and “*Peter moments*” (unexpected blessings). How do we know God is at work in both situations?
- What was one of your biggest learning points from Acts 12 and why?
- Read Acts 12:12 – 16. Why is Rhoda the servant girl the hero of these events in Acts? How does her response to Peter’s freedom differ from the others?
- Why is it important to remember that even when our faith is small, God, in His graciousness, is big anyway?
- God is working even when life is challenging, even at midnight and even when we doubt. He is working in us, around us and through us. How have you seen examples of this in your own life?
- Read Matthew 18:3 – 4. Why does God invite us to have the faith and humility of a child in our relationship with Him?
- Pray for your friends and family who you are inviting to Easter Sunday. Pray for our community and all the ways that God is working around us in the lives of people.