

Looking for  
helpful  
resources as  
you study  
Acts?



Bible Project



Free Commentary



Free Crossway Study

### LET'S CHECK IN:

1. Briefly share: over the last week, what's one way you've noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world? Or share something that happened in the last week you are grateful for!

### LET'S DIVE IN!

2. First, read together Acts 11. Think back to the message and the Big Idea: **Even when we don't see it, we can trust that God is providentially working for our good and His glory**
  - ⇒ 1<sup>st</sup> Point: God's providence allows trials.
  - ⇒ 2<sup>nd</sup> Point: God's providence allows deliverance.
  - ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup> Point: God's providence produces an expectant faith.
  - ⇒ 4<sup>th</sup> Point: God's providence upholds His holy justice.

Was there an idea or aspect of the text spoke to you? Was there anything said that challenged, intrigued or confused you that you want to explore more? Listen to each other, but don't feel the need to answer a person's question.

3. The message included a definition from theologian, Millard Erickson: "Providence is the continuing action of God in preserving his creation and guiding it toward his intended purposes." As we seek to understand God's providence as it unfolds in Acts, let's read several OT passages: Deut. 32:29, 1 Sam 2:6; Lamentations 3:37, Isaiah 28:29; 45:7; Rom 8:28; Psalm 33:10-11. In your own words how would you try to explain God's providence? How is it different, but has overlap with God's sovereignty? Secondly, how can this doctrine become a source of comfort, confidence, and assurance along our faith journey?
4. Luke offers the portrait of the believers who were praying (12:5;12) and their three responses in 12:15–16 (that Rhoda must be crazy, that it must be an angel or messenger, then, finally, amazement). Luke seems to indicate that their prayers were being answered. When we trust in

God's providence, how can it reinvigorate and foster an expectant faith (Read Heb. 11:1)? How can it help us to have confidence, that God hears us, even when we don't see answered prayers?

5. Herod was not God, but he acted like God. God hates arrogance and pride (read 1 Samuel 15:23; Proverbs 8:13; Isaiah 13:1). Thankfully, we likely will not be struck down by God's holy justice when we fall prey to pride, yet we should still be introspective and consider, any areas where we may find seeds of pride growing. Where do you need to ask the Spirit for help to root out any areas of pride in your own life?
  
6. How do you make sense of the miracles we read in the New Testament as a phenomenon that is rarely experienced or witness by Christians? Do you think this discredits our faith? How would you answer a skeptic that says, "If miracles like Peter's prison break happened then, If God is real, why don't we see more of these today?"
  
7. While we may not experience a physical jail break deliverance, how does Peter's miraculous deliverance point to the greater message of Christ's ultimate rescue (Read Colossians 1:13-14)?

### **WHATS YOUR NEXT STEP?**

8. In light of this study, share and write down one next action step you feel God is leading you to take in the next week?

*(Consider areas: a temptation to avoid? Promise to claim? Example to follow? Command to obey? Person to move toward? A new discipline to develop that will help you love God with your heart, soul, mind, strength and to love others?)*