

OPEN

Go around and let everyone answer...

Share a time when you felt like your expectations were totally exceeded.

DIG

What determines your expectations of something?

How does the way you set expectations influence your expectations of God?

Read Acts 12.11-16

Peter is miraculously freed from being imprisoned by Herod. At this point, many of the other believers were fearing the worst. Several believers had met together to pray.

What do you think the atmosphere was like in that house?

Why might the believers have been so doubtful despite their prayers?

This situation seems to indicate that the believers weren't really expecting God to answer their prayer. In fact, they even created reasons to explain why it wasn't actually an answered prayer saying, "It must be his angel."

How do you think Rhoda felt about their skepticism?

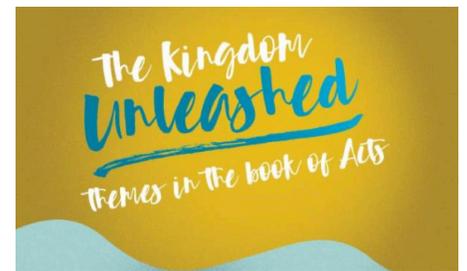
Why do you think they went so far as to even offer an alternative explanation?

How do prayers without expectation differ from prayers of high expectations?

APPLY

In what area of your life might you need to raise your expectations of God?

-KTW



Leaders

Sermon Series

This discussion guide is based on the current sermon series entitled "The Kingdom Unleashed: Themes in the Book of Acts." The series is designed to motivate people to embrace the Kingdom of God in their lives, making disciples of others.

Big Idea

God wants us to pray to Him with the highest of expectations believing that He not only can do anything but He actually still responds with miraculous power. When we pray without faith that God will come through, our prayers lack power and can keep us from fully experiencing God's goodness.

Group Discussion Reminder

Our LIFE Groups are a great place to pour out the love we share into the lives of others. We can't keep this love and community to ourselves. Who do you know that might benefit from being part of your group? Share those names, pray for them, and ask God to give you the courage to talk to them about visiting your group.