Why Pray?

To Display the Wisdom of God

Acts 12:1-24

Prayer is one of the spiritual resources God has given the church to shame the wise and mighty (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25). In Acts 12, Luke records two major attacks against the church launched by King Herod (Agrippa I). He executed the Apostle James and then had Peter arrested with the intent to execute him after Passover (44 A.D). It was a serious crisis. How did the church respond? It prayed. Prayer is a mystery. We speak to God and make our requests known. While it may seem like nothing is happening, that's not true. When we pray, one of the things it does is display the wisdom of God.

Discussion Starter: Take a moment and share one of your clearest answers to prayer.

1. Why does prayer seem futile to the secular mind?

2. What are a few misconceptions Christians may have about prayer?

3. Read verse 5. What does this tell you *about* prayer and *how* to pray?

4. In what ways has the church today exchanged spiritual power for worldly power?

5. What benefits for God's kingdom would the church possess if we were united in prayer?

6. According to Acts 12:15 the early disciples were just like us. Have you ever doubted God would answer your prayers? What's the cause of such doubt? How can doubt be transformed into faith?

7. What lessons about prayer can be drawn from this passage for your own life and for our church?