

"FaithFullness in Impossible Situations"
Week 8 in a 9-week Series

Preached: November 8, 2026
Scripture: Acts 12:1-19
Series: "40 Years of FaithFullness" – Week 8 of 9

SECTION 1 – GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Warm-up: Share a time something you prayed for happened, and you were surprised. (Think Rhoda.)

1. What is your "sixteen soldiers" situation?

- Peter faced sixteen guards, two chains, and an iron gate (vv. 4, 6, 10). What situation in your life feels that locked down right now? Share only what you're comfortable sharing.

- Why is it hard to name the thing that feels impossible, instead of pretending it's small?

- James was executed and Peter was freed (vv. 2, 11). How do you hold both of those together? Read Daniel 3:17–18 and Hebrews 11:33–38 and discuss what it means that God is faithful even when the outcome isn't what we asked for.

2. Where is your "but"?

- Read verse 5. What stands out about the church praying "earnestly"? Who is holding the rope with you in prayer, and who could you invite?

- Peter slept the night before his trial (v. 6). Read Psalm 4:8. What gets in the way of that kind of peace for you?

- Read Mark 4:26–29 and Philippians 1:6. When have you seen God work in a season that felt silent? What did you only see in hindsight?

3. Will you keep knocking?

- In verses 15 and 16 the church doubts and Peter keeps knocking. Where are you tempted to stop praying or stop expecting?

- Read Ephesians 3:20. Where have you been praying small? What would it look like to ask boldly this week?

- Which is harder for you: trusting that God will answer, or holding loosely to how he answers?

SECTION 2 – Going Deeper

Peter's rescue happens at Passover (v. 3), the feast of God freeing his people. Read Luke 4:18 and Romans 8:32. How does what Jesus did on the cross change the way you face smaller chains?

SECTION 3 – Prayer

Pair up or stay together and pray for one another's "sixteen soldiers." Ask God for peace like Peter's, persistence like the churches, and eyes to see him working in the dark.

SECTION 4 – This Week

Choose one next step: name someone to pray with, write your "sixteen soldiers" on a card and pray over it daily, or ask for prayer from someone outside this group.