

God Will Make a Way
August 7, 2022
Acts 12:1-19



Sermon Listening & Discussion Guide

1. There is an evil force intent and on _____
2. Prayer is a _____
3. God's Grace sets the _____
4. The Prisoner needs to _____
and _____
5. God will make a _____
6. Being set free is a _____ of God

Answers: 1. destroying you 2. weapon 3. captives free
4. get up, get out 5. way 6. miracle

GETTING STARTED

1. Have you ever felt like you're in prison? Maybe depression, addiction, mental illness, or anxiety, feelings of oppression, loneliness, physical illness, covid isolation, etc have caused you to feel bound with no way out. **Briefly share your story. In what ways did/does it feel like being in prison?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Read Isaiah 61:1-3.** This passage is Jesus' words. In Luke 4, Jesus reads verses 1 as he reveals himself as the Messiah.

- a. What are the 4 reasons Jesus was sent stated in verse 1?
- b. In the NIV version, 4 words stand out: poor, brokenhearted, captives, and prisoners. How are those 4 words alike? In what way do they describe us when we were in “prison.”
- c. Now look at the preceding action words describing what Jesus does. How are good news, bind up, freedom, and release alike? In what ways do they free us from our prison?

Jesus was anointed by God to free us from the darkness of sin and the prison walls that get put up around us. He came to free us from our own thoughts, attitudes, and behavior that keep us stuck, puts blinders on our eyes, leaves us paralyzed and ineffective to break away from unhealthy patterns, and slowly suffocates us. Just like a prisoner, we can't free ourselves. We need our Savior to open the prison doors. Luke 4/Isaiah 61 tells us our Savior, our Messiah is here to free us!

3. Jesus opens the prison door, yet we need to get up and follow him out. We need to let go of negative thoughts, ask him to heal our emotions, and draw on his strength daily to change behaviors. He gives us the power we just need to put it into action. **Look for and discuss all the key words you can find in verses 2-3 that reveal what Jesus promises us when we follow him out of our prison.**

MAKING IT APPLICABLE

4. Look at the last sentence in verse 3. Think of how strong and tall an oak tree is.
 - a. Imagining a person with an addiction or anxiety, what would their lives look like when Jesus gives them all the promises in the previous verses?
 - b. Describe the changes you would see in their thoughts, emotions, and behavior. How would they be like the oak tree?
5. Now apply this to your own life. **Where do you need to be freed of a thought, emotion, or behavior? What might your life look**

like once you receive the promises Jesus makes in this passage? What steps do you need to take?