



Rock Bridge Small Group Discussion Guide  
New Year Message – JC Groves  
LEADER GUIDE

SMALL GROUP LEADERS: - Remember the C's of Small group health:

CONTENT - *biblical, intentional, and conversational*

CONSISTENCY - *regular meetings and interactions with one another*

CARE - *sharing life's ups and downs with grace, love and encouragement*

CELEBRATION - *celebrating God's grace to us and having fun together*

COMMISSION - *participating in what God is doing now during our lifetime on earth*

CHARACTER - *as a leader – growing in my example for my group*

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**ICEBREAKER: (Choose one)**

- What has been your most memorable New Year celebration?
- What has been your most successful new year's resolution?

**INTO THE WORD:**

1) Read Acts 12:1-19

- a) In vs. 1-5, the circumstances surrounding Peter's imprisonment are given. Why did Herod arrest Peter with the intention to kill him?
- b) How was the church praying for Peter? Why do you think they were doing so?  
Leader Tip: Some have said that James' death was possibly a surprise to the church, and they may not have seen the urgency and prayed as they did now. This time they were aware, and were going to make sure God heard their cry.
- c) What do you think this type of miracle did for the church and for their faith in God? Do you think after Peter left they were grateful?
- d) How was the church focused on Jesus and His Kingdom vs. their circumstances in this passage? Teaching Tip: They were actively expecting God to intervene on their behalf, or they would not have prayed. They knew the church needed Peter, and they knew from Jesus' teaching that prayer to Him was their course of action.

**APPLY THE WORD:**

- 2) How do we focus on God rather on our circumstances, when our circumstances are troubling and when they drastically interfere with our lives?

- 3) How does thanksgiving and gratefulness affect our situation? Can you give an example of how it affected things for you?
- 4) How does prayer help us with worry and anxiety and stress?
- 5) What next step can you take this next week to focus more on Jesus? How can we help each other as a group in focusing on Him?

**PRAYER TIME:**

- Pray for each member of the group to focus more on Jesus.
- Each member pray this sentence prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to focus more on you and less on \_\_\_\_\_.