

What did he tell them?
 What did he bid them do?
 What "James" was this? (Matt. 10. 3.)

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. The strength of prejudice?
2. The value of united prayer?
3. The power of God?

Home Work for Young Bereans.

Was the Herod mentioned in this lesson the Herod who put the babes of Bethlehem to death? If not, what relation did he bear to that king?

Was this James the same as the one who with Peter and John accompanied the Saviour on so many occasions?

Put down the names of as many Bible characters as you can recall who were for a while put in prison.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Who now began to persecute the Church?
Herod the king.

Who was killed with the sword? **James, the brother of John.**

Who were pleased to have Herod do this? **The Jews.**

Whom did he then put in prison? **Peter.**

What did he intend to do? **Kill Peter also.**
 Who came to the prison while Peter slept? **An angel.**

What did he say when he had awakened Peter?
"Follow me."

What did Peter think? **That he saw a vision.**

What did he do? **He followed the angel.**

Where did he go when the angel left him? **To Mary's house.**

Who were there at this time? **Many believers.**

What were they doing? **Praying for Peter.**
 What surprised them greatly? **The sight of Peter.**

What did Peter declare? **That God had set him free.**

Where did Peter then go? **To a place of safety.**

What does this lesson teach? **God's care for his people.**

Words with Little People.

PRAYER— { Is stronger than prison doors.
 { Leads into a safe place.
 { Makes calm in time of danger.
 "Pray without ceasing."

Whisper Motto.

"I wait for the Lord."

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

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General Statement.

For several years there had been rest from persecution, and the Christian Church had greatly grown. But the enmity of the Jewish authorities was as bitter as ever, and, to please them Herod (Agrippa I), just before the passover of A. D. 44 (the passover lasted that year from April 1 to 8), had put to death James the brother of John, and "proceeded to take Peter also." This Herod was the grandson of the Herod who slaughtered the innocents at Bethlehem, the nephew of the murderer of John the Baptist, and the father of Agrippa, before whom Paul was tried. The "great dearth" foretold by Agabus at Antioch (Lesson V) was now widespread, and Paul was already on his way to Jerusalem bearing the gifts of the Christians at Antioch to their poverty-stricken brethren of Palestine. Sixteen Roman soldiers (probably in successive sets of four each) were ordered to guard Peter while in prison, for his wonderful escape fourteen years before was not yet forgotten. When passover was over Herod proposed to place Peter on trial, but at midnight the angel of the Lord "shined" his way into the cell, and by a series of miracles led the prisoner forth. The chains fell from his hands, the heavy iron-plated gate "opened of his own accord," and Peter was free. The Roman soldiers on guard either slept or their senses were divinely numbed. Peter could not believe his eyes and ears, and thought he was in the land of dreams. When he "was come to himself" he started for Mary's house, where the Christians, kept awake by their solicitude for the apostle, made the midnight vocal with their prayers. They must have had strong faith to pray at all for Peter's life when his speedy death seemed so certain; but their faith fell short of God's goodness, for when the apostle stood before them they dared hardly admit him—astounded for the moment out of their confidence in God and their courtesy to their beloved leader. He beckons them to silence while he tells the story of God's deliverance. Then he quietly leaves for a place of refuge.

Verse 1. About that time. When Barnabas and Saul were on their way to Jerusalem with the gifts of the Christians of Antioch. **Herod the king.** This Herod (Agrippa) was an inti-

mate friend of the Roman emperor Caligula, who gave him the dominions and title of his grandfather, Herod the Great. He was a strict Jew, and yet, from his Roman education, fond of