



ACTS

CHRIST BUILDS
HIS CHURCH

Witness Protection | Acts 12:1-25

MAIN POINT

God uses the prayers of the church
to protect the witness of the gospel.





**Increased persecution leads
to earnest prayer (1-5)**



Hopeless perspective leads
to abundant provision (6-11)



Surprising pessimism leads to
overwhelming praise (12-17)



Arrogant pride leads to humbling punishment (18-23)



Divine protection leads to gospel progress (24-25)

POINTS TO PONDER

1.

God allows persecution
to advance the gospel

POINTS TO PONDER

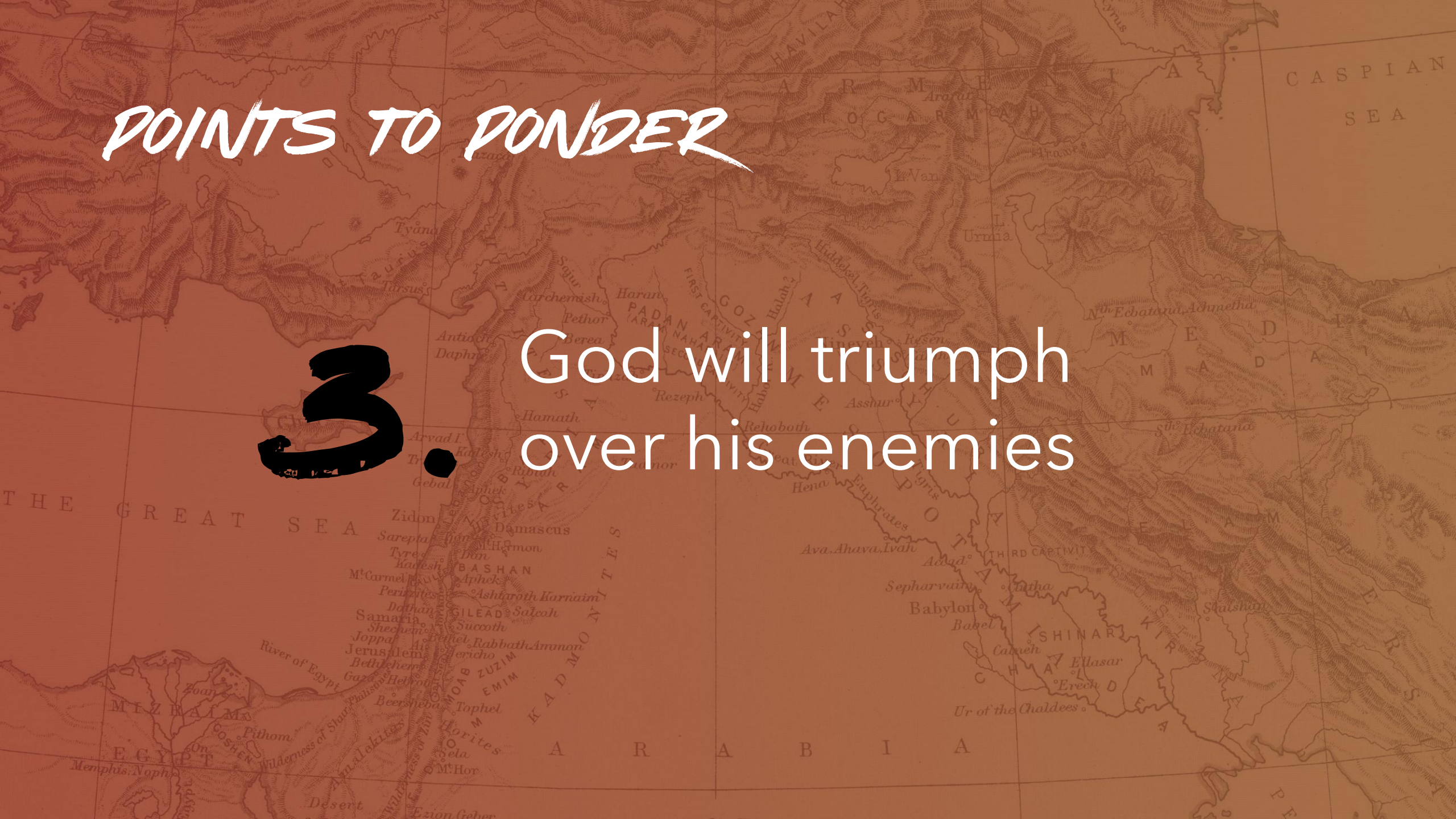
2

Big things happen when
God's people pray

POINTS TO PONDER

3.

God will triumph
over his enemies



POINTS TO PONDER



The gospel
cannot be bound

APPLICATION

Believe that God can (and will)
do far more abundantly than
all that you ask or think.



ACTS

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EPHESIANS

“NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER.”

3:20-21

“Witness Protection”

Acts 12:1-25 – *Pastor Scott Gnuse*

Main point: God uses the prayers of the church to protect the witness of the gospel.

Increased persecution leads to earnest prayer (1-5)

Hopeless perspective leads to abundant provision (6-11)

Surprising pessimism leads to overwhelming praise (12-17)

Arrogant pride leads to humbling punishment (18-23)

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Points to Ponder

1.

2.

3.

4.

Application: Believe that God can (and will) do far more abundantly than all that you ask or think.

Growing Deeper:

1. Why does God allow persecution to take place? How do you make sense of God protecting some Christians but not others from physical harm? What does it mean for God to be good in all his ways?
2. When have you seen God go above and beyond in answering a specific prayer? How did this encourage your faith?
3. Read James 1:5-8. What does it mean to pray in faith? How are you personally prone to double mindedness in your prayers? How might this be robbing you of greater joy?
4. How did today's passage encourage or convict your own heart? How does this motivate you toward greater faithfulness as a gospel witness?

Heart Preparation: Prepare your heart for worship on 08/30 by reading and meditating on Acts 12:20-23.

Prayer Prompt: Gracious Lord, forgive me for my lack of faith in prayer. I am far too prone to pessimism and doubt. Help me believe that you are truly able to do far more abundantly than all that I ask or think. Amen.

Reaching Farther:

Family: As a family, talk about the importance and power of prayer. Show them how the church responded to hard situations by gathering and praying together. What does this teach them about the priority of prayer in the life of the church? How can you model this as a family? Are there situations at school or at home that you as a family can pray about?

Community: As you have prayed for your unbelieving friends and family members, have you done so with an attitude of pessimism? Do you doubt that they can really change? Confess this to God and ask him to give you a heart of faith consistent with Ephesians 3:20-21.