



You Need a Little One

August 8, 2021

Acts 12:1-17

Connect:

- What were some of the “*make-believe*” games you played as a child? Can you identify some of the life skills you were learning while you were “*making believe*”?

Engage

- Read *Acts 12:1-17*. Have you read this story of Rhoda before? Walk through the story again and marvel at what happens here. While Rhoda gets little play elsewhere in scripture, she is named here which surely is significant. What kind of life do you think she lived forward from here?
- What are you doing to live Jesus’ philosophy of “*When you receive a child, you receive me*”? Where are you receiving a child in your life? How does such receiving shape your faith?
- Rhoda never saw Peter but just heard his voice and believed. The others (*those inside the house and the disciples*) had to see in order to believe. Discuss John 20:29: “*Jesus told him [Thomas], ‘because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’*”
- Three times a day a practicing Jew prays a Rhoda prayer, thanking God “*for thy miracles which are daily with us, and for thy continued marvels.*” Do you have any intentional practices that help you pay closer attention during the day for the marvels of God? Please share.
- General Douglas MacArthur is known for the quote: “*Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul.*” Explain what this means in your own words.

Next Steps:

- Schedule time in your calendar this week to do something creative that you’ve been putting off because you have “*too much to do.*” See how creative-play actually increases your joy in your work as well.
- Spend time with a child and let them lead you. See what they see. Wonder with them through their many questions about the world.

Pray:

- “*God of Wonders beyond our galaxy – you are holy! Thank you for that child-like spirit in each of us that comes out when we allow ourselves to be fully in the moment, open to the awe and wonder of your creation and the unique beauty of every person, place and thing. Help us be more present to such joy on a daily basis. Amen.*”