

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Remarkably Courageous

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | Acts 21:1–14

ICE BREAKER:

If you could travel back in time, where would you go? Who would you see? What would you do?

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT IN CONTEXT:

Read Acts 21:1–14. How does Paul's journey to Jerusalem mirror Jesus' own journey to the cross (Luke 9:51; Matthew 26:39)?

How does Paul's attitude in Acts 21:13 relate to Romans 12:1–2 and the idea of being a "living sacrifice"? How does Paul reflect Philippians 1:21 and Philippians 3:8–11 in His life?

CONNECTING TO JESUS AND HIS GOSPEL:

In Acts 21:1–14, Paul is repeatedly warned about the hardships awaiting him in Jerusalem, yet he remains resolute in his mission. How does Paul's determination reflect Jesus' own path to the cross? What can we learn from both examples about embracing God's call, even when it leads to personal sacrifice?

LIVING OUT THE TRUTH:

Following Jesus doesn't mean avoiding pain; it means trusting Him enough to walk toward it when He leads.

What decisions are you avoiding because obedience might cost you something? If your Christian walk were used as someone else's example of courage, what would it show?

Pray with one another for courageous strength to continue trusting the Lord, even in the midst of difficulty.

PARENTING MOMENT:

Ask your child(ren) what courage is and why it is important to have. After they answer, read Daniel 3:8–30 as a family. What is the immediate result of courage, and what is the ultimate result of courage? Remind them that believing and sharing the Gospel with others takes courage, but when we step out in faith, the best part is not the result but that God is with us.

FURTHER STUDY:

For more on courage and the courage to trust the Lord, read Joe Rigney's book: *Courage: How the Gospel Creates Christian Fortitude*. Also see Rigney's article: "Courage is Contagious."
Also see Greg Morse's article "Oh, for Grace to Trust You More."