



Lent 2022

Diocese of
Guildford 

TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Lent Course 2022 | Session 5

Courage

Now that you've watched the video, take a moment to read **Acts 20:17-38** and reflect on/discuss the following questions:

1. As Paul reflects on his ministry among the Ephesians, he speaks of the need for courage in the context of persecution (v.19 etc), evangelism (v.20-21), loss (v.25), preaching (v.27), church leadership (v.28-30) and material need (v.34). Looking back over our lives, what do we see as the single moment which required the most courage of us? And what impact (if any) did that have on our growth as a disciple of Jesus?
2. Paul can often be disarmingly honest about his faults: but here he quite deliberately puts himself forward as a role model. Why do you think he does that? And what difference would it make if we started to recognise that we are role models too (for better, for worse)?
3. Courage can sometimes be seen in terms of personal resilience or maintaining a stiff upper lip – but this passage is full of emotion, complete with weeping, embracing and kissing. How honest do we feel able to be about the challenges that life throws our way? And how might our churches grow in that honesty and mutual support?
4. Verse 24 is a stunningly courageous verse, and one that encapsulates the faith of the martyrs. Have any martyrs (ancient or modern) been a particular inspiration to us, and what might we learn from the persecuted church today?
5. Paul's message to the Ephesian elders is tough – more 'blood, toil, sweat and tears' than 'peace in our time'. Why did Churchill's message prove far more motivating than Chamberlain's? And what might that have to teach



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us about our own communication of the gospel and the cost of discipleship?

6. What requires the most courage of us now?