

Series: Acts of Spirit-filled Believers
Message: Courage in the Midst of Criticism

October 25, 2026

Acts 20 | 1 Corinthians 9:19-21 | John 8:44 | John 10:10

A man on a mission.

Courageous Decision Making

Focusing on what God has done.

In the face of the storm.

Standing in the face of lies: know where the lies come from.

Tell your story:

- The journey God has brought you on.
- The love of God through Jesus.
- The power of the Gospel.
- Salvation for all - including those who attack me.

If we can see life through the lens of the Gospel and eternity then everything else will fall into place.

Life Group Study

For week of October 25, 2026

Many of our Life Groups use this insert as a discussion guide throughout the week. We encourage you to take that next step in your journey with Jesus & His church by joining one today! <https://rlc.pub/groups>

Looking back over what Jeff talked about on Sunday, was there something you'd like to share?

Would one or two of you like to begin the Life Group by sharing a bit of your story? How you met Jesus, grown in him, and a little about the journey He's brought you on?

Connect to God's story

On Sunday Jeff talked about Paul's journey to Jerusalem and overcoming difficulties with great courage. Before we begin reading Scripture, let's take a moment and pray asking the Lord to help us to see and do what he wills with what we find there.

Read Acts 21:1-6.

Unlike his Gospel, there are four sections of Acts where Luke joins the journey denoted by the word "we". These two men, Luke and Paul wrote over half of the New Testament Scriptures... what a team! Why might this be an important detail to notice?

What are things you notice about Paul's journey in these verses? What warnings were given the men? When you go on a journey does it involve times of prayer? What do you do when you are needing to be wise about the next steps you take... especially when some can be perilous?

Read Acts 21:7-15.

When Luke mentions Philip as "one of the seven" what is he referring to? Why might drawing our attention back to Stephen in Acts 6 be important when facing potential persecution?

What was the church's response to Agabus' prophesy? What was Paul's response? Where did Luke land on whether or not Paul should go to Jerusalem? (v. 14) Just because you may face difficulties or even death, does this automatically mean we should not do what the Holy Spirit is prompting us to do?

What do you do when you need wisdom as you make decisions that could affect not just you, but those in your family?

Throughout these journeys, where did Paul and his companions stay? How did God seem to provide for their missionary journey? How are you doing when it comes to trusting God's provision for the work He is calling you to?

Spend some time together in prayer asking the Lord to help you grow in trusting Him for your daily bread. Pray for each other and conclude by reading the Lord's prayer together. (Matthew 6:7-13)

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful relationships with Jesus and each other through the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25).

Here's how we accomplish this in our community throughout the week:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life by following Jesus.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Throughout the Life Group session, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways the Father has designed you to serve and make a difference in His kingdom as He conforms you to the image of His Son! (Romans 8:28-30)