



Courage in the headwind

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

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| 1 | Part 1 | We cannot keep quiet |
| 2 | Part 2 | You are the man! |
| 3 | Part 3 | Finally showing your colours |

 3 meetings of 10–15 minutes

 Standing up bravely for convictions and faith

 Preparation: 10 min

 **How to use the series:** Use one part in each of three meetings in a row. At the start, briefly recall the previous part.

1 Part 1: We cannot keep quiet

Bible: Acts 4:13–20

Peter and John stand before the Council and are told to promise never to speak about Jesus again. They answer: “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God. We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Courage grows out of what you have experienced yourself.

 **Question:** Where do you find it hard to stand up for your faith?

 **Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, give me courage to stand by you honestly – with words and with my life. Amen.*



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2 Part 2: You are the man!

Bible: 2 Samuel 12:1–7

King David has done wrong and covered it all up. The prophet Nathan tells him about a rich man who takes a poor man's only lamb. David is outraged – and Nathan says: "You are the man!" Sometimes courage means speaking the truth lovingly but clearly, even to the powerful.

 **Question:** Where around you is someone needed who tells the truth?

 **Prayer:** *God, give me courage for the truth and the love to say it in a way that helps. Amen.*

3 Part 3: Finally showing your colours

Bible: Mark 15:42–46

Joseph of Arimathea is a respected member of the Council and secretly a disciple of Jesus. After the crucifixion, when everything seems lost, he boldly goes to Pilate and asks for Jesus' body. He risks his reputation – and openly takes his stand. It is never too late to show your colours.

 **Question:** What would you risk your good reputation for?

 **Prayer:** *Jesus, I do not want to belong to you only in secret. Give me courage to stand up for you, even when it costs something. Amen.*



For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.