

# Study #18

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## COURAGE UNDER FIRE

“A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13

### WARM UP

The New Zealand Herald 3 July headline “Moment that Won the Cross” could have been a headline for Easter but was for the bravery of Corporal Willy Apiata. The sub-headline was “SAS man’s dash through hail of bullets saves comrade’s life”. When interviewed, Corporal Apiata said of the man that he saved, “I see him every day and it’s a blessing”. Jesus climbed Calvary through a hail of whips and abuse to die on the cross that we might be saved. I imagine that Jesus’ words would be, “I see you every day and it’s a blessing”.



**READ 2 Corinthians 11:1-33**

### QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

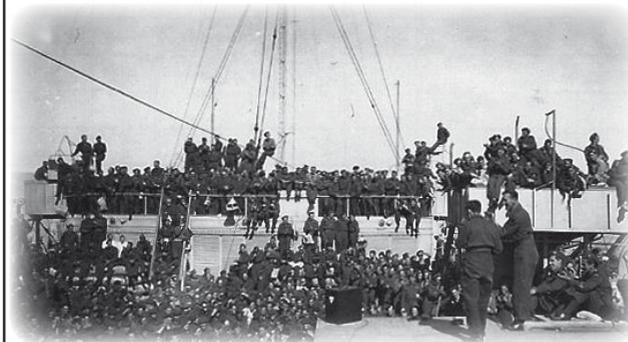
1. Share with the group about times when people may have accused you for your Christian faith.
2. How do you feel when people abuse you for being a Christian man?

### BACKGROUND

As we read about all that Paul endured as an Apostle for Christ it becomes clear that there is a lot that we do not know about the man. The book of Acts only skims through the life of Paul. It was important for Paul to face those who accused him so that, with courage while under fire, he could proclaim the Gospel.

3. What does courage mean to you?

4. Share with one another about what the courage of Jesus means to you.



### IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

#### MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

Inspired by Corporal Apiata and St Paul, I as a Promise Keeper will stand firm for the faith in the face of temptation. I will encourage my fellow brothers in the faith.

### CONSIDER THIS



The Victoria Cross is awarded for “most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy”. Since first awarded in 1856 only 1,356 have been awarded. We are called to take up our cross each day for Christ.



### WRAP UP

Go around the room and say to one another, “I will stand firm”.