

COURAGEOUS

10 STRATEGIES for THRIVING
in a HOSTILE WORLD

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

Group Discovery Questions

SURVIVAL TIP #6: BEND, DON'T BREAK

1. How would you define *resilience*? Give an example of someone who is resilient. What aspects make him or her resilient?
2. The author said, “Now, perhaps more than ever, we need to stand firm in our Christian convictions. But *how* we maintain our convictions is just as important as our convictions themselves.” Discuss ways that Christians can be a stumbling block to people coming to faith. How could these believers present the Christian viewpoint more effectively?
3. According to Romans 12:21, how should Christians respond to our enemies?
4. What do you think would happen if every follower of Christ graciously but boldly pushed back against attempts to neutralize Christianity’s influence on our culture?
5. What is the difference between *peacemaking* and *peacekeeping*? Which one does Jesus call His followers to do in Matthew 5:9?
6. What should Christians do when it is impossible to maintain peace with a friend or family member or employer or the government while maintaining your spiritual convictions?
7. Consider what you learned in this chapter about Daniel’s ability to “bend but not break” in his corrupt culture. What do you think it would look like for Christians today to have the courage to “bend but not break” in our culture? List a few specific examples.

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Personal Application Questions

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1. Is there someone in your life who opposes your Christian convictions? How do you tend to respond to that person? In light of what you have learned in this chapter, how should you respond to those who oppose your faith?
2. Read Romans 12:18. What do you learn from this verse about your responsibility when it comes to living in peace with others?
3. Is there ever a situation in which a Christian should seek revenge? Read Romans 12:19, Matthew 5:39, and Proverbs 15:1. What do you learn from these verses about seeking revenge on those who hurt us?
4. What is the difference between taking revenge and seeking justice? Give an example of a situation in which a person could seek justice without taking revenge.
5. What does it mean to “heap burning coals on [your enemy’s] head” (Romans 12:20)? Support your answer with what you learned in this chapter.
6. What should believers do about the persecution of Christians in our world? What specific steps can you take to learn about and help persecuted Christians?
7. As we see Christian beliefs being marginalized in our nation, we are not to stay silent. Review the three principles of civil disobedience described in this chapter. Are you prepared to pay the price?