

COURAGEOUS

10 STRATEGIES for THRIVING
in a HOSTILE WORLD

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

Group Discovery Questions

**SURVIVAL TIP #4:
DEVELOP A VICTOR,
NOT A VICTIM MINDSET**

1. When difficulties come—whether from their own failures, the failures of others, or the fact that the world is broken—do you think most people have the mindset of a victim or of a victor? Explain your answer.
2. Read Romans 8:31. How could this verse help Christians develop the mindset of a victor when facing difficult circumstances?
3. The author defines *attitude* as “our mental and emotional response to the circumstances of life.” What are some attitudes that people could choose to help them respond well to the circumstances they face in life?
4. How would you describe the relationship between faith and action?
5. Read Romans 8:28–29. What do you learn from these verses about God’s purpose for every circumstance He allows into our lives?
6. How do you typically respond when people do and say hateful things about you?
7. Read Matthew 5:11–12. How does Jesus want us to respond when people insult, persecute, or lie about us?
8. What is the difference between suffering for one’s own bad choices versus suffering for Jesus? Give at least one general example of each. If you have experienced either form of suffering, share what happened and why.

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Personal Application Questions

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1. Have you (or someone you know) suffered as a result of unloving actions from your family? If so, how did you choose to respond? How did your choice affect the situation?
2. According to the author, “When God sends tests into our lives, they usually involve a change we could never have anticipated.” Describe a time when you felt ambushed by an unexpected problem. Do you think that situation could have been a test from God? Why or why not?
3. Read Genesis 39:2, 21, and 23. What phrase is repeated in these three verses? How does this phrase encourage you to see yourself as a victor over your circumstances, instead of a victim?
4. Have you (or someone you know) been unfairly accused of something? If so, describe the situation. How did you respond?
5. Based on what you learned about Joseph’s experience in the Old Testament, would you say that obedience to God always immediately results in a happy ending? Why or why not? How could Joseph’s example keep you from giving in to a victim mindset when you face difficulties?
6. Describe a time when you felt as if your friends or acquaintances were unfairly avoiding or neglecting you. What was your experience? How did you respond?
7. Have you ever been in a crisis and cried out to God, but there was no answer? Read Deuteronomy 31:6. How does this verse encourage you when you feel as if God has abandoned you?
8. According to the author, “Because we have the Spirit of God in our lives, we no longer need to be victims of sin—whether our own or someone else’s. Victors don’t feel sorry for themselves, and they don’t quit. They persist.” How can you apply this perspective to whatever challenges you may be facing in your life right now?