

COURAGEOUS

10 STRATEGIES for THRIVING
in a HOSTILE WORLD

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

Group Discovery Questions

**"SURVIVAL TIP #1:
DON'T PANIC"**

JOSHUA 1:6-9

1. When danger comes, do you tend to have a *fight*, *flight*, or *freeze* response? What do you think you would have done if you were a passenger on USAir Flight 1493?
2. Why is panic such a harmful reaction when we are faced with threatening or difficult circumstances? What are some things that can happen when we panic?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:3–4. According to the apostle Peter, what were the prevailing values and behaviors of first-century culture? What was their attitude toward followers of Jesus? Describe any similarities you may observe between the first century and twenty-first century.
4. List a few of the popular distractions in today's culture. Do you think these distractions tend to lead believers toward God or away from the things of God? Explain your answer.
5. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. As Christ's ambassadors, what specific things can Christians do today to influence our culture with God's truth?
6. The author observed, "Living in a culture that mocks biblical values and accepts immorality can make us feel as if we are surrounded by strangers speaking an unfamiliar language." Discuss examples of how today's America could seem like a foreign country to Christians.
7. How can believers "conduct ourselves not as citizens of the culture in which we live but as citizens of the culture we represent—heaven"? Give examples of what that conduct might look like in everyday life.
8. Read 1 Peter 1:15–16 and Romans 13:14. What do you learn about holiness in these verses? What would holiness look like today in our world?
9. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 and 1 John 4:4. How can these unchanging promises in God's Word give us courage no matter what distress we might be experiencing right now?

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Personal Application Questions

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1. What are some of your greatest fears and worries in life? Be specific.
2. Why is right thinking so important? Describe an example of wrong thinking in your life that led to wrong behavior. How could right thinking have prevented that situation?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:13. What are a few things you can do to “prepare your [mind] for action”?
4. Consider the kinds of input you are storing in your mind right now. How do you think the sights, sounds, and experiences that go into your brain affect your behavior? What efforts can you make to keep your mind free from things that could cause you to compromise your commitment to Christ? (See Philippians 4:8.)
5. Do you tend to make the same kinds of choices as your unbelieving friends, coworkers, and neighbors—or do you make choices that honor God? Give examples.
6. Have you ever anticipated the return of someone you love? If so, what was the situation? How did your anticipation for that person compare to your anticipation for the return of Jesus Christ? (See 1 Peter 1:13.)
7. Can you recall a time when God called you to a new task that required you to step out in faith? Describe the situation. How did you respond? What was the result?
8. What new task have you sensed the Holy Spirit leading you to do? Will you choose to respond to that task with fear or faith?
9. Read Isaiah 41:10. In what ways does this promise of God’s unceasing presence give you comfort and courage for the circumstances you are facing today?