

COURAGEOUS

10 STRATEGIES for THRIVING
in a HOSTILE WORLD

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

Group Discovery Questions

SURVIVAL TIP #2: GAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

1. Think about the question in the Granite Mountain Hotshots' ready room: "How is your situational awareness today?" What is your answer to that question? Do you consider yourself to be someone who understands what is going on in our culture and knows the right actions to take? Why or why not?
2. Briefly explain what you learned in this chapter about the two steps to gain situational awareness: *learn to deny denial* and *correctly assess reality*.
3. Has your mind ever played tricks on you, causing you to misread the reality of a situation? Describe a time when you or someone you know were in a dangerous situation and pretended things weren't as bad as they appeared to be.
4. The author lists several examples of people shrugging off dangerous, sinful behaviors as "just the way things are" or relabeling them as something less offensive. Discuss other examples of this kind of substitution you observe in our culture.
5. Read 2 Peter 3:1. Can you think of anything in our culture that fits Peter's description of the last days as "difficult," or "without moral restraint"? If so, what?
6. God warns in Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness." How do you see this happening in today's culture? Read Galatians 6:7 and record God's last word on this matter.
7. According to the author, "We are currently living in the last days as we await the return of Jesus Christ. And as the years, months, and days lead up to His return, things on earth are going to get worse." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Support your answer with specific Bible verses or cultural examples.
8. How would you describe a "proper attitude toward God"? In what ways does our attitude toward God affect our ability to acquire wisdom? Can a person be truly wise without knowing God? Why or why not?

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Personal Application Questions

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1. The author said, “We all have burn marks that scar our lives. All of us smell like smoke.” In what ways have you or people close to you been “burned” in life?
2. Read Psalm 121:4, Jeremiah 32:17, and Romans 8:28. As you consider your previous “burn marks” or current situation, how do these verses help you keep things in proper perspective?
3. What did you learn in this chapter about the descendants of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32, 38)? How did their skills of observation, correlation, and application affect their ability to understand their political and cultural climate? What was the result?
4. List the “three primary ways we can gain and grow in wisdom,” outlined in this chapter. Which of these steps are you doing today to acquire wisdom? Which ones could you start doing?
5. Read Daniel 11:32. What is the defining characteristic of those who are able to “display strength and take action” in the face of persecution?
6. “Without exercising application, all the understanding and knowledge in the world are merely intellectual gymnastics.” Why do you think applying one’s knowledge is essential to acquiring wisdom?
7. Since “the search for wisdom is a lifelong pursuit,” list some things you are currently doing to grow in wisdom. What could you start doing to acquire wisdom? Be as specific as possible.
8. In 1 Thessalonians 5:6, the apostle Paul urged believers to stay aware of current events in light of biblical truth. What can Christians do today to stay aware of current events from a biblical perspective?