

# COURAGEOUS

10 STRATEGIES for THRIVING  
in a HOSTILE WORLD

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

## Group Discovery Questions

### **SURVIVAL TIP #8: LEARN FROM THE PAST**

1. Describe a situation in which you (or someone you know) compounded mistakes by making additional ones. What happened?
2. According to the author, “Ordinary men and women who are unexpectedly thrust into danger have a significantly better chance of surviving if they are able to remember and apply what they learned in the past.” Do you agree or disagree? Have you ever been able to successfully handle a situation because of what you learned in the past?
3. What is your attitude toward studying history? Do you enjoy reading stories of people in the past, or do you think that “History is more or less bunk”?
4. How would you characterize the attitude of today’s younger generation toward the older generation? Do you think this attitude is biblical or helpful? Why or why not?
5. Read 2 Kings 22:1–2. Considering that Josiah’s mother was married to evil King Amon, how is she an example to single mothers and mothers married to unbelieving husbands who desire to rear godly children?
6. What is the most important thing parents can do during the few years their children are at home? If you are a parent, what specific things are you doing (or will you start doing) to teach your children what it means to love, follow, and obey Jesus Christ?
7. Read 2 Chronicles 24:3. What lesson could our nation learn from Josiah about diversity versus idolatry? For example, is the belief that “all religious systems are equally valid” a statement of diversity or idolatry? Explain your answer based on what you learned in this chapter.
8. “All truth is ultimately God’s truth, and there is a lot of truth we can learn from studying the past.” Name a book, television show, or movie about a significant person or event in history that helped you learn from the past. How does understanding history provide tools to help us handle the circumstances of our lives today?

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## Personal Application Questions

### **SURVIVAL TIP #8: LEARN FROM THE PAST**

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:18; 8:2; 9:7; 16:12; 32:7. What word is repeated in these verses? Why do you think God wanted His people to remember their history?
2. Read Romans 15:4. According to this verse, what is the benefit of learning from the experience of past generations?
3. What do Job 8:8–9 and 1 Corinthians 10:11 teach you about the importance of learning from the past?
4. What lesson can we learn from King Josiah and his response when he found the Bible in the temple in 2 Chronicles 34:14–15? (See Hebrews 4:12 for further insight.)
5. Martin Luther wisely said, “The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.” Describe a time in your life when you have experienced this.
6. What are some of the habits you learned from your family? Are these habits positive or negative? What will you do to change them, or to pass them on to the next generation?
7. Think about a mistake you have made in the past. How can you learn from it? Will you have the courage to move forward in spite of your mistakes, knowing that God can still shape you to become more like Jesus Christ? Why or why not?
8. Who are your heroes? How can these heroes give you the courage to overcome daunting challenges with dignity and grace?