

## NOTES



## PRAYER

*"Father God, we thank You for Your love for every generation, especially the young people among us. We acknowledge that You value and cherish them, and we ask that You help us see them as You do. May we recognize their importance in Your Kingdom and encourage them to know You deeply and represent You well. Guide our hearts today as we seek to grow together, united across generations, in Jesus' name. Amen."*

## OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"What is one thing that was popular when you were a teenager that the younger generation today might find strange or funny?"



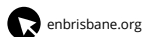
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## WORD

*32 Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.*

### [1 Chronicles 12:32 \(ESV\)](#)

*11 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" 16 And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all[a] of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. 18 Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.*

### [Acts 19:11-20 \(ESV\)](#)

In these passages, we see two distinct groups: the Sons of Issachar and the Sons of Sceva. The Sons of Issachar were known for their discernment, understanding the times, and knowing how to lead Israel. Their wisdom was rooted in their connection to their tribe and their spiritual insight, which guided them in making decisions for the good of the nation. Their father Issachar, one of the 12 sons of Jacob, was blessed with a legacy of service, and this understanding of the times became a generational trait.

In contrast, the Sons of Sceva lacked true spiritual authority. Although their father was a Jewish high priest, their attempt to invoke Jesus' name without personal knowledge of Him led to disastrous consequences. They were exposed as having no real connection to the power they sought to wield, demonstrating the danger of trying to represent Christ without a genuine relationship with Him.

These two groups represent starkly different outcomes of how one generation can either pass on wisdom or a hollow form of religiosity. As David Kinnaman highlights in "Faith for Exiles," cultural discernment and countercultural mission are essential for equipping the next generation to faithfully follow Jesus in today's world. We must help young people develop a deep relationship with

Christ so that they, like the Sons of Issachar, can understand the times and lead others, rather than falling into the traps of false representation like the Sons of Sceva.

The key difference is found in character, spiritual grounding, and true understanding of authority. While the Sons of Issachar were led by the Spirit, the Sons of Sceva were led by self-interest and lacked the personal relationship with Jesus that would have empowered them to act with genuine authority. In a world filled with imitation and superficial faith, we must encourage the next generation to truly know Christ and be well-anchored in biblical truth and community.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think it means to "understand the times" like the Sons of Issachar? How can we apply this today?
2. In what ways do you see the next generation facing challenges similar to the Sons of Sceva? How can we help them develop true spiritual authority?
3. How can we ensure that young people today are not just following the traditions of their parents but discovering Jesus for themselves?
4. What practical steps can we take as a community to equip the next generation with both biblical knowledge and real-world discernment?
5. What role does Christian community play in preventing the kind of spiritual emptiness seen in the Sons of Sceva?

**"Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our Savior and for the truth and life You offer us. Today, we acknowledge You as Lord over all, and we ask for Your grace to walk closely with You. Help us, young and old, to submit our lives to Your design and to trust in Your plan for our generation. As we live for You, may we lay down our lives in service to others, just as You did for us. Give us the wisdom and courage to equip the next generation to know You deeply and to represent You well. In Jesus' name, Amen."**