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 Life Enrichment lesson: **Understanding the Times We Are Living In**

Key Scripture

(1 Chronicles 12:32) – *“From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command.”*

1. Introduction

The men of Issachar were praised because they had **spiritual discernment**. They were not just aware of what was happening in their generation; they knew **how to respond according to God’s will**. Today, in an age of confusion, division, and spiritual darkness, God is calling His people to be like the sons of Issachar to have wisdom, discernment, and direction.

2. Why We Must Understand the Times

- **Spiritual deception is increasing**

(Matthew 24:4–5) – Jesus warned, “Watch out that no one deceives you.”

- **The love of many is growing cold**

(Matthew 24:12) – Lawlessness causes hearts to harden.

- **Evil is being called good**

(Isaiah 5:20) – Morality is being redefined.

- **We are closer to Christ’s return**

(Romans 13:11) – “The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”

3. Signs of the Times (Biblical Perspective)

- **Moral decline** – *(2 Timothy 3:1–5)* “In the last days... people will be lovers of themselves...”
 - **Spiritual compromise** – *(2 Thessalonians 2:3)* “A falling away must come first.”
 - **Global shaking** – Pandemics, wars, and natural disasters remind us that the world is unstable *(Matthew 24:6–8)*.
 - **Rise of knowledge and technology** – *(Daniel 12:4)* “Knowledge shall increase.”
 - **Gospel advancement** – *(Matthew 24:14)* “This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world then the end will come.”
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4. How Believers Should Respond

- **Be Watchful & Prayerful** – *(Mark 13:33)* “Be on guard! Be alert!”
 - **Be Rooted in God’s Word** – *(Psalm 119:105)* “Your word is a lamp to my feet.”
 - **Walk in Holiness** – *(1 Peter 1:15–16)* “Be holy, because I am holy.”
 - **Be Bold Witnesses** – *(Acts 1:8)* “You will be my witnesses...”
 - **Encourage One Another** – *(Hebrews 10:25)* “Encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
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5. Practical Life Applications

- Guard your **mind** from deception by staying in the Word.
 - Guard your **heart** from fear by trusting in God's promises.
 - Guard your **life** from compromise by living in obedience.
 - Guard your **mission** by sharing Christ urgently with others.
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6. Discussion Questions

1. What parallels do you see between biblical prophecy and current world events?
 2. In what ways can we be like the men of Issachar today?
 3. What areas of your life need more spiritual discernment?
 4. How can we help others understand the times without creating fear?
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7. Conclusion

Understanding the times is not about fear, but about faithfulness. God has positioned His people to shine in dark times. Just like the men of Issachar, we must know what to do: **stay alert, stay holy, stay hopeful, and stay on mission.**

Closing Prayer:

"Lord, open our eyes to see the times we are living in. Give us discernment like the sons of Issachar. Help us to live wisely, walk faithfully, and shine brightly until You return. In Jesus' name, Amen."
