

MAN AS THE PROVIDER— DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the General's father Cecil about what it means to be a provider for your family?
2. Being a provider requires personal sacrifice of time, dedication, and effort. Have you assessed your life to determine who and what is worth living for, sacrificing for, and even dying for? Do you have a transcendent cause? If so, what is it? How does it involve those close to you? How can you make sure your life reflects your commitment to your transcendent cause?
3. Man, as a provider, should take care of his family and seek to meet their needs. Ponder the general's statement, "Being a provider isn't just about you. You are either in this world to take or you're here to give." How does that impact how you look at your current job(s)?
4. Have you ever considered your work as part of your worship? Meditate on 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV), "Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." How should that verse impact your performance on the job?
5. Recalling the story of Mark, the gym owner, how could you invest in the life of a child with an absent dad? Do you know someone in your extended family, your church, or community to whom you can be a blessing in that way?

6. As a man—a provider—you have an obligation to help care for those who can't take care of themselves. What are some specific things you can do in your community to help people in need?
7. As a man, it is your responsibility to provide values to your family and others. What values are most important to you? What values need to be shored up in your own life from the list? What values do you want to pass on to your children and families? And lastly, how do these values line up with the issues we are facing in society today?
8. Now that you've discussed which values you would like to pass on to your children and families, ask yourself, "Do people see my values reflected in the way I live my life? Do I provide an example of positive values for those around me?"
9. This chapter also talks about providing vision, a big picture for those you lead. What is your vision of a preferred future for yourself, your marriage, your family, or your team? It is important to develop and refine your vision through prayer. Take some time to pray it over, think it through, and write it down. Clarify it before you communicate it.
10. As a provider, it is important to provide identity for your family. Reflect on how General Boykin's dad, Cecil, did it. What are some specific and creative ways you could do this for your family? Might it involve a road trip? A heritage hunt over a weekend or maybe a family vacation where you track down parts of your family identity?

Dr. Kenyn Cureton served as a research contributor and provided the Discussion Questions for each chapter.