

# THE VIEW FROM THE *Rocking Chair*

## Personal Review Questions

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### Chapter 1

1. At what point in time have you had the clearest vision for what you will care about most at the end of your life?
2. Who would you say is “your joy and crown”? What are you most tempted to put before them?
3. Remember the example of the intentional living of the professional football player. When have you experienced that kind of intentional living? How did that feel?
4. When have you witnessed a painful, nearsighted decision like the one described in the girl’s letter to her dad?
5. Sharing your Rocking Chair responses with others can deepen your relationship with them and help clarify the vision of others for their own life. Consider sharing some of your answers with your family, a close friend, or your small group.

## Chapter 2

1. Think of a time when you experienced the importance of having a reliable instrument to help you get to the right destination.
2. Recall a time when you observed a person you admired drift off course. Who was affected? How did you feel?
3. What have you been using as your primary instrument(s) to make decisions in your life? Why do you believe this to be trustworthy?
4. What course corrections have you made in the past that you are grateful for today?
5. What course corrections have you been contemplating but not yet made? What is holding you back?

## Chapter 3

1. Reread Viktor Frankl's quote. On a scale from 1 to 10, how much do you agree that we can choose our attitude and actions even in the most difficult set of circumstances?
2. What is the best example you have seen of a parent's choices having a lasting effect on their children? On their children's children?
3. Are there any biblical examples that come to mind that highlight God's desire for us to understand the importance of our choices?
4. Remember the example of carefully following the doctor's every instruction during the birth of our child. Can you think of a time you were completely dependent on someone else because you knew what was at stake?
5. Do you think highlighting the significance of our choices will make you more or less dependent upon God each day? Why?

## Chapter 4

1. What were your favorite answers from the Rocking Chair exercise shared by others? Did you add any of these to your own exercise?
2. When has clear long-term vision helped you make a challenging decision? Think of a specific experience.
3. How do you feel when you get to the end of a day in which you have made many choices based on what will matter most at the end of your life?
4. How often have you experienced the feeling that there will be an unlimited number of opportunities and “we can get around to that later”?
5. Has there been a time when you have been forced to remember the truth of the hourglass? How has this affected your life?

## Chapter 5

1. In what settings have you observed questions being used most effectively?
2. Review the four points about the value of questions. Which of these is the most significant to you?
3. Look back at the rules of engagement for the Quaker clearness committee. What can we learn from these guidelines?
4. Do you have a favorite question that God or one of the writers of Scripture asks in the Bible? Why do you like it?
5. What is the best question you have ever been asked? Why was it valuable to you?

## Chapter 6

1. Which comparisons from the Busy vs. Full exercise were most significant to you? Why?
2. Which one of your relationships do you think has been most affected by busyness in the last year? What have been the consequences of busyness?
3. Which of the four points about technology do you think is the most important for you to remember? Why?
4. Of the Five Revealing Differences we considered, which one provides the greatest motivation to live the full life?
5. We discussed how the phrases “There’s not enough time,” “Quality versus quantity time,” and “It’s only a season” represent traps. Which of these are you most familiar with?

## Chapter 7

1. In this chapter, we talked about how people treat busyness in their lives like a pet golden retriever rather than a cobra. Have you seen this happen in someone else’s life? How about on your own?
2. Look back over the letter from the former pastor about his dis- integrated marriage. Which statement in his letter do you find most surprising? Why?
3. Can you think of a season in your life when busyness has con- tributed to “soul disease”—hurting the health of your walk with the Lord?
4. Dr. Richard Swenson stated that many children are being “run over” by the pace of life in their home. How prevalent is this phenomenon today? What do you think is the first step toward addressing the situation?
5. The father in “Cat’s in the Cradle” neglected his relationship with his son because of his job and pursuit of wealth. What pulls you away from the kind of relationship you want with your children (or loved ones)?

## Chapter 8

1. How would you describe the pace of life Jesus modeled for us in the Gospels?
2. What are some stories or passages in the Bible that show God highly values relationship?
3. As discussed in the chapter, many people focus more on providing nice homes, cars, and clothes for their loved ones than on developing strong relationships with them. What is most important for you to provide for your spouse and children (or loved ones)?
4. What are your non-negotiables?
5. Which of the “Seven Steps to Aim for Full” do you think would be most difficult for you? Which step could be most helpful to you?

## Chapter 9

1. Which of the statistics at the beginning of the chapter are most striking to you?
2. Which of the “Six Contrasting Aimpoints” between good and godly have you observed most clearly?
3. When you read about King David's family life, what do you find most surprising?
4. Which of the four logical reasons we “outsource” do you find the most prevalent?
5. What can be the negatives when a culture counts on the “professionals” to do the heavy lifting in terms of teaching our children about God and His ways?

## Chapter 10

1. How familiar are you with the thought that the health of the marriage relationship is significant to the spiritual health of the children?
2. Which of the seven ideas to pursue oneness in marriage do you think would be most valuable?
3. The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4–9) encourages us to make a deep impression on our children through example, instruction, and reminders of God's truth. Which of these is the easiest to accomplish? Which is the most difficult?
4. How would you compare the way Jesus made disciples to the ways we make disciples today?
5. Consider parents you know who are examples of effectively teaching their children about God and His ways. What lessons have you learned from them?

## Chapter 11

1. What difference do you think it would make for you to regularly study the Bible together with your family (or loved ones)? What is the greatest obstacle to you doing this?
2. When have you prayed with your family or a group of people for a specific request and seen a compelling answer from God? What effect did that experience have on the relationships in the family/group?
3. As mentioned, each of us grew up in homes with different norms for how love was expressed. How did your family express love when you were growing up? What are you aiming to replicate and what are you aiming to change?
4. Which one of the nine practical ideas, consistently lived out, would have the greatest impact on your view from the rocking chair?
5. Which principle of implementation at the end of the chapter is most important to you as you consider new practical steps for your family (or your closest people)?

## Chapter 12

1. How accurate is this depiction of what you sense to be the current American Dream?
2. Sociologists have found the culture we live in affects all of the inhabitants to some degree. In what way(s) do you feel most influenced by the American Dream (as we have defined it)?
3. Which of the Kingdom distinctives are the most sought after for the people around you?
4. Which of the four points about the covenant love of the Kingdom do you find most moving? Is there a specific relationship in your life that needs to experience this element?
5. Have you witnessed in your own life or someone else's some of the thinking found in the parable of the Mexican fisherman?

## Chapter 13

1. Which of the quotes from those who have lived the American Dream is most striking to you? Why?
2. What is your best takeaway from Solomon's life?
3. Which of the quotes from those who have lived in the Kingdom of God is most compelling to you?
4. What are your thoughts about Paul's teaching that contentment is a secret that must be learned in the course of life?
5. How do you assess Frankl's remarks about not pursuing happiness? How well does this match what you see in the world around you?

## Chapter 14

1. Which of the Kingdom vision stories shared in this chapter did you find most compelling?
2. Whose life has provided Kingdom vision that you would like to emulate?
3. Look back at the section discussing the arrival of the Kingdom “in our hearts.” Which of the four practices to guard and enrich our lives has been most valuable for you? Which one would you like to grow?
4. What is or could be your “one thing” as defined in this chapter?
5. In which of the five circles do you sense the greatest desire for God’s Kingdom to arrive in greater ways?

## Chapter 15

1. The story of KAL Flight 007 provided some important reminders. Which one is most significant to you at this point in your journey?
2. Which one of the tools do you think will be most significant in your next six months of life?
3. Where do you plan to keep the tools so they are appropriately visible and accessible?
4. Which of your Compass Check questions do you think is the most important as you reach the end of this book?
5. In addition to sharing the content of your tools with your closest people, selecting a trusted friend to check up with you once a month for the first six months will dramatically increase the probability that you will successfully integrate these tools as part of your life. Which friend(s) would be best to fill this role?