Courageous

by Randy Alcorn



About the Book

As law enforcement officers, Adam Mitchell, Nathan Hayes and their partners willingly stand up to the worst the world can offer. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they?re quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark.

They know that God desires to turn the hearts of fathers to their children, but their children are beginning to drift farther and farther away from them. Will they be able to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them? When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God...and to their children?

Discussion Guide

1. Which characters or events in this novel resonate with you? How has your life been similar?

2. Discuss some of the differences between bad parenting, ?good enough? parenting, and effective parenting. What are the marks of excellent parenting? Why do many people settle for good enough?

3. In the very first scene Nathan refuses to let go of the steering wheel, risking his own life to rescue his son. What in your life is worth that kind of risk? What are some sacrifices God might ask of you for the sake of people you love?

4. Have you had a positive father figure in your life? If not, how can you seek out and cultivate that kind of relationship even now? If so, what can you do to express your appreciation for that person?s influence?

5. Where was the breakdown in the relationship between Dylan and Adam? What did each do to bridge the gaps between

them?

6. Why is Adam reluctant at first to share his faith with Bronson? How does Bronson?s outlook eventually change? Who is someone in your life who needs to hear the truth?

7. How does Javier reflect his faith in God?s provision and sovereignty? In what situations does he live out his faith well or not so well?

8. Name and discuss some of the characters in this story who receive grace, compassion, or forgiveness. How does it affect these characters? lives?

9. Were you surprised by Shane?s actions at the end of the story? Why do you think he made the decisions he did? In what situations is it easy to make excuses for our wrongdoing?

10. David finds many second chances through the course of this story, including an opportunity to truly become a father to his daughter. But consider if Amanda had not invited David back into her and Olivia?s life --- how could David still have fulfilled his Resolution?

11. Discuss the truths of Proverbs 22:6. What does this verse say about child rearing? What does it say about children who leave the faith?

12. In what ways did the men in Courageous maintain their Resolution? In what ways did they fail to keep it? How can a man make sure his Resolution is more than just an idle promise?

Author Bio

Randy Alcorn is an author and the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM), a nonprofit ministry dedicated to teaching principles of God?s Word and assisting the church in ministering to the unreached, unfed, unborn, uneducated, unreconciled and unsupported people around the world. His ministry focus is communicating the strategic importance of using our earthly time, money, possessions and opportunities to invest in need-meeting ministries that count for eternity. He accomplishes this by analyzing, teaching and applying the biblical truth.

Before starting EPM in 1990, Randy served as a pastor for fourteen years. He has an MA degree in Biblical Studies from Multnomah University and an Honorary Doctorate from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon and has taught on the adjunct faculties of both.

A *New York Times* bestselling author, Randy has written more than 40 books, including COURAGEOUS, HEAVEN, THE TREAURE PRINCIPLE and the Gold Medallion winner SAFELY HOME. His books sold exceed eight million copies and have been translated into over 60 languages. Randy has written for many magazines including EPM?s issues-oriented magazine *Eternal Perspectives*. He is active daily on Facebook and Twitter, has been a guest on more than 700 radio, television and online programs including "Focus on the Family," "FamilyLife Today," "Revive Our Hearts," "The Bible Answer Man" and "The Resurgence."

Randy resides in Gresham, Oregon, with his wife, Nanci. They have two married daughters and are the proud grandparents of five grandsons. Randy enjoys hanging out with his family, biking, tennis, research and reading.

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