



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

8 AUG 2021 | MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION | PSALM 27: 4

Series: Following Christ | Speaker: Josh Yeoh



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Behold
2. I Just Want You
3. One Desire
4. Greater / Less
5. Move Your Heart



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on how being obsessed with God looks like in our lives; and
2. Respond by taking steps to pursue God wholeheartedly.

SERMON SUMMARY

Josh brought us to look at the difference between sincere and mature love, and how the Lord God is inviting us, as a Church, out of a place of lukewarmness into the place of mature love. Beholding Jesus is the means to mature in love. We not only see His glory, but we also reflect and reveal it; and we become what we behold.

The Lord is raising a people who will be “obsessed” with Him. Being obsessed and giving ourselves to “one thing” (instead of “many things”) is the invitation out of lukewarmness and into a lifelong pursuit of God. In the Bible, we see many heroes of the faith who were singularly focused upon God!

In Psalm 27:4, David’s obsession (his “one thing”) was to behold the beauty of the Lord. It produced passion and lifelong vision. People who are “obsessed” become people after God’s heart. What is your obsession?

SERMON RECAP

Sincere Love vs Mature love. Josh brought us to look at the difference between sincere and mature love, and how the Lord God is inviting us, as a Church, out of a place of lukewarmness into the place of mature love. Ultimately, we can only reveal God’s glory and love when we behold Him. Beholding Jesus is the means to mature in love. We not only see His glory, but we also reflect and reveal it; and we become what we behold. God’s unconditional love brings us into the everlasting enjoyment of His glorious presence.

“But the apex of that enjoyment is that we not only see His glory, but also to reflect it.” [John Piper].

Josh exhorted us to **be a people who beholds and reveals**. Through this COVID-19 season, God is working an eternal glory in us as His people through the difficulties we faced in 2020 and 2021. The Church as His bride is going to be radiant!

Singularity vs Duplicity of Heart. In his book “Crazy Love”, Francis Chan described being obsessed as “being excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic.” “Obsession” often carries a negative connotation, but **in the Bible, heroes of our faith were also the most “obsessed” - they were a people of “one thing”, singularly focused upon God.** What are the obsessions of this generation? What have we aim our loves and desires? As a society, are we obsessed with SES (Socio-Economic Status)? In the book “The Paradox of Choice” by Barry Schwartz, a salient observation of modern society is that *“the more options you have, the less happy you will be, no matter what you decide on.”* In [Luke 10](#), we see that only “one thing is needed” and Mary has chosen it. In contrast, in Luke 18, the rich young ruler is mentioned as lacking the “one thing.” We are called to be consumed with Christ, and Jesus is not an add-on to whatever we have going on in our lives – see [James 1:8](#).

David’s obsession. The Bible tells of David’s obsession with the beauty of the Lord.

*“The beauty of God includes many things. It speaks of His glory - everything about Him that is dazzling, stunning, magnificent, and striking, that fills our hearts with delight. It includes how He thinks and feels, what He does, and His infinite power and knowledge. The greatest dimension of God’s glory is His personality - His kindness, mercy, justice, goodness, truth, love, and all His excellencies. **God’s beauty is displayed in creation, redemption and His leadership over history.**”* [Mike Bickle]

Josh taught us to **love God for who He is, not just who He is to us or what He can do for us**. He shared on the Marshmallow test (see [video](#) for background) to encourage us as Christians to say “no” to the temporal and the temptations of the present, and to behold the eternal reward and glory of God.

“A person who is obsessed thinks about heaven frequently. Obsessed people orient their lives around eternity; they are not fixed only on what is here in front of them.” [Francis Chan]

Obsession produces passion and lifelong vision. From [Psalm 69:9](#) and [Psalm 132:3-5](#), we see that David was not lukewarm, but he was zealous. He spent decades of his later life preparing for the building of God’s Temple, but did not get to see its completion, paving the way for his son, Solomon, to do so. Do we live in a way that captivates the

hearts of the next generation? Have we lived our passion that can inspire the next generation? Is our obsession God and His name?

People who are “obsessed” become people after God’s heart. What is your obsession?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Francis Chan describes being obsessed as “having the mind excessively preoccupied with a single emotion or topic.” Scripture tells of heroes of faith who do not hold back. Share with your Cell what the profile of the “obsessed” is (words that describe people who are obsessed). [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap and reflect question for members to consider. Scripture teaches us to be consumed with Christ and to faithfully live out His Word. In sharing about the profile of the “obsessed”, we hope to question ourselves how we can transform our lives and move beyond being lukewarm in our faith. Francis Chan gives the following profile which can be useful as we reflect on how we can focus on the “one thing” that truly matters eternally!

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|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. Lovers | — | Give freely and openly, without censure. See Luke 14:12-14 . |
| b. Risk Takers | — | Aren’t consumed with their personal safety and comfort above all else. |
| c. Friends Of All | — | Live lives that connect with the poor in some way or another. See 1 Timothy 6:6-13 . |
| d. Crazy Ones | — | Are more concerned with obeying God than doing what is expected or fulfilling the status quo. |
| e. The Humble | — | Knows that the sin of pride is always a battle. See Matthew 5:16 . |
| f. Servers | — | Do not consider service a burden. |
| g. Givers | — | Are known as givers, not takers. |
| h. Sojourners | — | Thinks about heaven frequently. See Philippians 3:18-21 . |
| i. The Engrossed | — | Is characterised by committed, settled, passionate love for God, above and before every other thing and every other being. See Deuteronomy 6:4-9 . |
| j. Unguarded Ones | — | Are raw with God; they do not attempt to mask the ugliness of their sins or their failures. |
| k. The Rooted | — | Have an intimate relationship with God, being nourished with His Word throughout the day. |
| l. The Dedicated | — | Is more concerned with his or her character than comfort. See James 1:2-4 . |
| m. Sacrificers | — | Knows that the best thing he or she can do is to be faithful to the Saviour in every aspect of his or her life. See Psalm 50:9-12, 14 . |

The above descriptions are meant to help guide us on what it looks like to be wholly surrendered to God, though they are not necessarily the complete answer.

Transition

The Holy Spirit stirs in us a joy and peace when we are fixated on Jesus, living by faith, and focused on the life to come. Leaders can challenge members to imagine and pray about what “being obsessed” looks like in our own lives!

2. In question 1, you have shared on what “being obsessed” looks like¹. Reflect and ask God how He may grant you the grace to become one or more of those profiles. What would motivate you to change your life in that area(s)? [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a relate question. In our own power, we cannot be obsessed with Christ, but we can ask God for the power and motivation. God can set us free from our obsession with the world and cultivate within us the passion for Christ. Clarifying our motives and aligning with God’s will be the first stage for this transformative change that God wants in our lives.

¹ Please also refer to Chapter 8 of the Crazy Love book by Francis Chan on “Profile of the Obsessed.”

Transition

Leaders can encourage members to share what the Holy Spirit is prompting and challenging us to change in our lives. Philippians 1:6 is God's promise to bring us through this change! As a cell, let us encourage one another to commit and affirm on the specific areas of our lives that God wants us to change so that our love for Jesus will be both passionate and a lifelong vision. The next stage of our response would be identifying possible obstacles as well as taking practical steps to draw closer to God.

3. Read [Psalm 27:4](#). What are the “many things” that stop you from going after the “one thing”? Share with the Cell on an action step you can take in the next one week to mature in our love and to pursue God more wholeheartedly. [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

A response question for members to share an action step so that faith can be built up personally and in the spiritual community. It is helpful for members to identify and briefly share things that weigh down their hearts and leave them anxious on a day-to-day basis. Leaders can encourage members to meditate on the promises of God and place their burdens at the feet of Jesus Christ in faith. Re-read Psalm 27:4 and aspire to be a people after God's heart!

Closing

God is inviting RiverLife Church to move out of the place of lukewarmness into the place of mature love. The Lord is awakening sincere hearts and bringing them to maturity. May we encourage one another to leave behind our lukewarm ways and pursue God wholeheartedly.



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray that God will awaken sincere hearts in our church and wider community and bring us towards maturity.
- Pray that we will heed the call of the Holy Spirit to pursue God wholeheartedly and to be fixated with godly zeal on Jesus Christ in our daily lives!

2. Singapore

- Pray for God's favour and blessing on the nation as we celebrate our National Day.
- Pray for wisdom, strength and perseverance for the leaders and people in Singapore to overcome the difficulties and uncertainties brought about by COVID-19 in the next phase of our response.
- Pray for our church as we take the necessary precautionary measures as advised by the relevant authorities, and act and respond with confidence, not irrational fear or panic.

3. COVID-19

- Pray that the COVID-19 situation in the surrounding countries in South-East Asia and beyond to turn for the better.
- Pray for God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities. That God will bring about healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Pray for a swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, especially in India and the rest of South Asia.

- Pray for the protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **Sermon Series: Following Christ 11 Jul - 15 Aug.** Jesus' call to discipleship is to follow a Person - "deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me" (Mat. 16:24). Following Christ is a very distinct life. In daily interactions with others, people should see and feel the One whom we follow. The question would be: Is God the main character in your life, or is life mainly about you? In this series, we look at what it means to follow Christ – to be so amazed by who He is that we march to the beat of a different drum and live as a people who truly belong to Him.
3. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
4. **Alpha Online.** 2 Sep to 20 Nov. 12 Sessions. Thursday zoom sessions (8.00pm - 9.30pm): 2, 9, 16, 23 Sep | 7, 14, 28 Oct | 11 Nov Sunday in-person sessions: 2, 23 Oct | 20 Nov. Sign up online at <rlc.sg/ao-reg> by Tues, 17 Aug. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.
5. **COVID-19 Vaccine & The Christian.** Watch the recording of the panel session here: <https://rlc.sg/covidpanel>. For additional resources: <https://linktr.ee/covidpanel>.
6. **The Behold Album.** The RiverLife Worship team has launched a new album titled 'Behold'. Listen to the album and access chords and lyrics for the songs: <rlc.sg/thebeholdalbum>

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Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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