



THE JOURNEY GUIDE

A journey about laughing in the face
of mediocrity, taking a stand,
and changing the world.

www.crossroads.net/obsessed

WELCOME TO THE OBSESSED JOURNEY

Week 1: Level 1 of 6

OBSESSED is a five-week adventure. Each week, attend the weekend message or watch it online, do the individual challenges in this app, and get with your group.

Who is The OBSESSED Journey for?

OBSESSED is for anyone who wants to leave their mark on the world. Whether you have followed Jesus for decades, or haven't yet made that commitment, it is good to regularly look at your life and clear the clutter that the world likes to pile onto your shoulders, neutering your ability to make a difference. OBSESSED will help you do that over the coming weeks. You'll look at what you care about, where you are vulnerable to the world's schemes, how you deploy your money (the #1 indicator about what you are about and whether you will have impact or not), and what God says about how we can have impact.

Bottom line: OBSESSED is for everyone. Go for it.

Over the next four weeks you will complete a series of exercises to discover where you can have the most impact, and what's holding you back from going bold. It might feel uncomfortable at times, but all adventures are.

This PDF will guide you through questions, writing prompts, and challenges.

Parts of the OBSESSED Journey are customized based on your lifestage. Please answer the next two questions to help facilitate that process.

Are you married?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you answered YES: Processing this journey with your spouse will be super important. Even if you're already in a journey group together, carve out some one-on-one time to talk about your answers to the individual work. Schedule a date night, talk about it in the car on your way to Chick-Fil-A—just make sure to connect and ask each other how you answered the questions. It'll be worth it.

Are you a parent of kids ages 3-18?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If you answered YES: Processing the OBSESSED Journey with your kids can be really beneficial for your family. You will occasionally receive prompts and conversation starters so you can include your kids in this journey with you.

Let's do some starter questions.

Is obsession a good thing or bad thing?

- a. Good thing.
- b. Bad thing.
- c. It can be both.
- d. Isn't it a cologne?

Which Michael is the most obsessed?

- a. Michael Jackson
- b. Michael Scott
- c. Michael Myers
- d. Michael, that guy that sells craft stuff
- e. Michael Jordan

What's one thing you are obsessed with right now?

(Examples: my new job, my new kitten, recycling, bingeing Fuller House, training, saving the whales, my fantasy team, fairy gardens, making fire)

I'm obsessed with: _____

—

Think about your obsession with the thing you wrote above.

Any obsession, good or bad, costs time and money.

How much does this obsession cost you?

—

World change is always a hot topic.

Is it possible to change the world?

- a. Absolutely.
- b. I am cautiously optimistic.
- c. I used to think it was possible,
but I've given up.
- d. That's unicorn talk.

—

When people around me talk about money, I feel:

- a. Excited, in a good way.
- b. Open. Interested. Intrigued.
- c. Um... awkward.
- d. Pit-sweaty uncomfortable.
- e. Offended.

The quote that most reflects my money philosophy is:

- a. Go big, or go home.
- b. You only live once.
- c. A penny saved is a penny earned.
- d. My wallet is like an onion: opening it
makes me cry.
- e. Money can't buy happiness.

A bar fight breaks out. Who do you hope has your back?

- a. Jasmine
- b. Cinderella
- c. Belle
- d. Tiana
- e. Rapunzel

—

Last question. You're about to finish this level, how are you feeling?

- a. Totally excited!
- b. Totally OK.
- c. Totally guilty (because I lied).
- d. Totally offended.
- e. Totes McGoats.

—

Nice work. Now you know how things will flow.

Each week will start with the weekend message. It's critical that you watch the weekend message or some things in this app just won't make sense. And you'll probably miss some sweet surprises. Attend live or stream if you can. If not, you'll be able to watch the video in this app. That's the next level. Onward.

Doing OBSESSED with a group is a critical part of the journey. If you don't have a group, we'll help you find one.

Visit crossroads.net/obsessed to find a group.

WEEKEND MESSAGE

Week 1: Level 2 of 6

If you missed the weekend message, watch it online now at crossroads.net. For real.

—

What stood out from the message?

What bugged you?

What questions do you have?

Which family could win a “live off the grid for a year” contest?

- a. The Simpsons
- b. The Kardashians
- c. The Brady Bunch
- d. The Royal Family
- e. My family

You’ve completed level two. Wasn’t that easy? Try another now.

—

OBSESSION

Week 1: Level 3 of 6

People who are obsessed leave a mark. Watch the video for this level at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials before continuing on.

—

What about that video inspires you?

What about that video intimidates you?

—

Think for a moment about a time when you were focused on one goal—and you eventually accomplished it (training for a marathon, studying for a major exam, getting your kid into preschool, finding a job, preparing for a big event, etc.).

The goal I accomplished was:

Who helped you reach your goal?

What distractions did you overcome to reach your goal?

What did you sacrifice to reach your goal?

How much time did it take to accomplish your goal?

What type of financial investment was required for you to accomplish your goal (tuition, entry fees, supplies, gym membership, gear, etc.)?

How did you feel when you accomplished your goal?

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being complete obsession, how obsessed were you with achieving your goal?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Accomplishing any goal takes time, energy, and resources.
Congrats on accomplishing your goal, and congrats on finishing this level.

—

YOUR OBSESSION

Week 1: Level 4 of 6

Watch a short video for this level at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials before continuing on.

—

Brian said one thing he is obsessed with is motorcycles.

What is something you are obsessed with?

What do you spend money on because of that obsession?

If you gave someone complete and total access to your finances, what would they say you are obsessed with?

Would their answer encourage you or bother you? Why?

Four levels down, two to go.

—

MATTHEW 6:19-33

Week 1: Level 5 of 6

The OBSESSED Journey focuses on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:19-33 in the Bible. Watch a video reading of that verse at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials. As you do that, listen for God's promises to us.

—

What promises did you hear?

—

Now read those words of Jesus in a different translation. Again, look for God's promises to us and record them below.

Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

Matthew 6:19-33

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

—

God promises if we “lay up treasures in heaven” they will be completely secure.

What do you think it means to “lay up treasures in heaven?”

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:31-33

—

God promises if we “seek first the kingdom,” he will provide for all of our needs.

What do you think it means to “seek first the kingdom?”

Keep going! You have one more level to go for this week.

—

YOUR CHALLENGE

Week 1: Level 6 of 6

So far the OBSESSED Journey is making me:

- a. Super excited! I love talking about money and God and being obsessed!
- b. Cautiously hopeful.
- c. A little puckered, no gonna lie.
- d. Totally freaked out. Can we talk about sex instead?

As you move forward in this journey, what is one thing that worries you? Be honest.

What's one thing that you're hoping for in this journey?

Okay, now let's take that stuff to God in prayer, which is simply talking with him. Take a minute to pray the following prayer. Bonus points for praying out loud, even if it's mouse whispers.

God, please help me as I continue this journey. Help me to hear you and grow. I confess that I am worried about [read what you wrote for question 2 of this level].

In faith, I'm handing those worries to you and asking for your peace. I'm hoping for [what you wrote for question 3] and am asking you to move in that area. Show me what it means to know you and trust you. Help me to come closer to you during this adventure. Amen.

Lay Up Treasures In Heaven Challenge

Before you meet with your group this week, lay up some treasures in heaven.

Go back to level 5 and look at your answer to question 3. That is what you said you think it means to "lay up treasures in heaven."

Now go do that. You'll be sharing this story at your first group meeting, so be sure to do something. Go.

—

Before you leave, watch this video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials about how the journey group time will go this year. A lot has changed from past journeys and you should know before you get to group.

—

You did it! Week One and done.

Now get to that group.

GROUP CONTENT

Week 1: Level 7

LEADER, read out loud:

Welcome to our first group meeting. This is going to be the way we roll for the next four weeks. We will meet every week and be together in the app as well. To do that, we need to go over a few things first so that we get the best experience.

First tip: At the top of each section in italics is a prompt for who is supposed to read that section.

If you are using the app: Next we will sync up as a group. We only have to do this once for the entire journey.

In the app:

Group Sync Instructions

1. Leader, press Create Code.
2. Everyone in group (including leader) enter the 4-digit code.
3. When everyone's face appears, you are synced and ready to move on.

LEADER, read out loud, and use a 30-second timer for this next part (on your phone, the microwave, one of those tiny hourglasses from a board game...)

Time for introductions. Go around and share your name, where you're from, and the first concert you went to. If you know your group well, tell them all something they don't know about you.

30 seconds each. I'll go first and then go to the right. As the reader, I will start a timer. The rest of the group just listens. Once it is your turn, I will reset the timer.

LEADER, read out loud:

I'm going to pray this prayer out loud:

God, thanks for bringing this group together. Join us in this time as we process our OBSESSED Journeys. Help us to exhale, listen, and trust you. Make this a safe place to know you and hear you better. We ask for some growth, some connection, and some fun. Amen.

Before we get started, let's go over the group rules:

1. I agree to watch the weeken message every week, do the individual exercises, and show up on time to our group.
2. I'll listen instead of trying to solve other people's problems.
3. I agree to be open and honest.
4. I agree that the group may cut me off if I am dominating the conversation.
5. I agree to keep everything that I hear in this group confidential.

*Pass this to the person who owns the newest phone.
Read out loud.*

Who is your first pick for your basketball team? Choose one and debate for no more than 60 seconds as a group.

- a. Big Bird
- b. Chewbacca
- c. Groot
- d. The Hulk
- e. Tinkerbelle

Pass this to the person who owns the oldest phone.
Read out loud.

One thing we all have in common is a connection to Crossroads. Each person select one thing in the list below that you most like about Crossroads.

- a. The people I've met
 - b. Kids' Club / Student Ministry
 - c. The delicious, free coffee
 - d. Our work in India, South Africa, Nicaragua, Bolivia, etc.
 - e. The Camps—Man, Woman, Couples
 - f. The baller technology, for instance the sweet app
 - g. The Anywhere community I've found
 - h. The challenging teaching
 - i. Our sites
 - j. The creativity
 - k. I have no idea what these things are.
- What's Crossroads?

Pass this to the person wearing the most accessories.
Read out loud.

Each person share what you answered and why.
 15 seconds each.

Pass this to the person wearing the oldest shoes.
Read out loud.

What stood out to you about the weekend message?

Everyone gets 30 seconds to answer. I'll go first by starting the timer. When I'm finished, the person on my left will go, then we'll proceed around the group. If you are also using the app, each person uses the timer on their own device.

Pass this to the person with the most hair.
Read out loud.

Let's talk about obsession. Is it a good thing or a bad thing? And what is something that you are currently obsessed with? Each person take 30 seconds to answer.

Pass this to the person with the most piercings.
Read out loud.

Let's talk about the time we each were obsessed with reaching a goal. At least two people in the group share. What was the goal that you accomplished? How obsessed you were with achieving that goal? What did you sacrifice to reach that goal?

Spend five minutes as a group on this. I will keep track of time.

Pass this to the person with the smallest feet.
Read out loud.

Matthew 6:19-21 says:

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

What does it mean to "lay up treasures in heaven"? Three minutes for the group to answer.

Pass this to the person with the biggest feet.
Read out loud.

This week we did the Lay Up Treasures In Heaven Challenge. Each person take up to two minutes to share how it went.

LEADER:

For the rest of this group, leader, grab the first envelope.

Pull out the envelope for Week One. Open it. Follow the instructions. When you're done with the activity your group is done. See you next week.

WEEK 2

THE WORLD WANTS YOUR OBSESSION

WEEKEND MESSAGE

Week 2: Level 1 of 4

If you missed the weekend message, watch it online now at crossroads.net. For real.

—

What stood out from the message?

What bugged you?

What questions do you have?

Which Neil would be the best babysitter?

- a. Neil Armstrong
- b. Neil Diamond
- c. Neil Patrick Harris
- d. Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- e. Neil Young

First level done. Do the next one.

—

WARNINGS

Week 2: Level 2 of 4

This week you learned about the three C's of consumerism. Watch the video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials of people from the Crossroads community talking about their C.

Who do you most relate to?

- a. Angel
- b. Shaw the Barber
- c. Chris

Why did you relate to that story?

Last week you considered God's promises in Matthew 6:19-33. As you watch that video again at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials, pay attention to the warnings God gives.

What warnings stood out to you and why?

Nice work. Keep going.

—

ASSESSMENT

Week 2: Level 3 of 4

We are all susceptible to all three C's of consumerism: control, comfort, and comparison. For the rest of this journey you will choose one to focus on.

Next you're going to take a quick assessment to help you make that choice. Have fun... This isn't super scientific, but it should help provide some clarity.

It's time to think about a summer vacation. How do you decide on a location?

- a. What's the hot spot this year?
- b. Where's the best deal?
- c. Two words: ALL INCLUSIVE. I don't want to think about a thing.

You're interviewing for a new job this week. What might motivate you to do a wardrobe upgrade?

- a. I want to dress to impress.
- b. The investment is worth it to make sure I get this job.
- c. I can't perform my best if I'm thinking about how my feet hurt, so it's time for a new pair of shoes.

Thump, thump, thump. That flat tire definitely wasn't in the budget. How do you feel?

- a. Mad. And I continue to be the only one with a crappy car.
- b. Irritated, but that's why I have an emergency fund.
- c. Bummed, because my fun money is now rolling around the wheels of my car.

Why do you go to the gym?

- a. Summer is coming. Gotta look good at the pool.
- b. The gym is cheaper than my co-pay.
- c. Because I like cinnamon rolls and beer.

You did it. You bought the thing off the infomercial at 3am last night. There are no returns. Why did you do it?

- a. You're laughing now, but you'll be buying it in three weeks.
- b. I work hard, and I deserve it. Stop judging me.
- c. Laugh all you want, but it's one more thing I never have to worry about again.

You just paid all your monthly bills. How do you feel?

- a. Excited—opportunity to upgrade.
- b. Fantastic. It's good to know that everything is taken care of.
- c. Great! Now I can spend whatever's left without worrying.

What motivates you to renew your yearly subscription to Amazon Prime?

- a. It's 2018, who doesn't have Prime?
- b. Auto. Deliver. I haven't run out of toilet paper in three years.
- c. Because never having to go to a store is UH-MAZE-BALLS.

You're looking at a new apartment today. Which of these catches your eye the most?

- a. Oooh...the outside looks nicer than my old place.
- b. No rent increases for three years guaranteed? Sign me up.
- c. Dishwasher!!!!

A friend asks to borrow \$200. Let's assume you give it to them; how do you feel about that expense?

- a. I'll miss the money, but I feel good because they came to me.
- b. It makes me nervous—what if I have an unexpected expense?
- c. I'm not excited about it. I'm already dreading the awkward, "When are you going to pay me back?" conversation.

You're planning a party. What are you worried about?

- a. This better be the social event of the season.
- b. How do I keep my place from being trashed?
- c. I hope people will have fun.

You just splurged on something you've been eyeing for months. You saved up for it, so it's not impacting your monthly budget. How do you feel?

- a. Finally! I'll celebrate with an Instagram selfie.
- b. I'm glad to have it, though spending that much makes me nervous.
- c. I'm excited—can't wait to enjoy it.

Your phone is busted. You want to upgrade, but that's a hefty price tag. What do you do?

- a. Silver lining, now I'll have the newest model.
- b. I'll make it work until next month. I'd rather be irritated than break the budget to buy it now.
- c. I can just pay it off as part of the contract.
No worries.

You've decided to go back to school. Why?

- a. My friends are all moving forward in their careers, and I'm feeling stuck.
- b. I'm tired of working for others. I'm ready to be the boss.
- c. I want more disposable income, so I need a better job.

You finally paid off your student loans. What's your first move?

- a. Post that thing to Facebook. Who wouldn't brag about this?
- b. Now that money can go to me instead of some stupid bank.
- c. I'm buying some new clothes, because I finally have some breathing room.

You just finalized and booked a very detailed plan for your vacation. Why did you spend so much time planning?

- a. If it's not post-worthy, it's not worth doing.
- b. Without a plan too many things can go wrong.
- c. If I plan it, that means I get the master suite.

That's the end of the quiz! Now it's time to add up your results.

Add up the number of responses you selected for each letter (A, B, or C). Whichever you had the most of, that is the "C" of consumerism that you are likely most susceptible to.

A: Comparison

Great job. Looks like you scored highest in comparison. Wow, what's everyone else going to think? Just kidding. But seriously, we all wrestle with comparison, comfort, and control. For the rest of this journey consider focusing on the role comparison plays in your life.

B: Control

Great job. Looks like you scored highest in control. Which is exactly what you intended, right? Just kidding. But seriously, we all wrestle with comparison, comfort, and control. For the rest of this journey consider focusing on the role control plays in your life.

C: Comfort

Great job. Looks like you scored highest in comfort. Does that make you uncomfortable? Just kidding. But seriously, we all wrestle with comparison, comfort, and control. For the rest of this journey consider focusing on the role comfort plays in your life.

—

We're all vulnerable to each of the C's. But let's not bite off more than we can chew. For the remainder of the OBSESSED Journey, choose one C to focus on. Maybe it's the C you scored highest in—maybe not. Choose the C to which you think you're most vulnerable. That could mean in this life stage, or maybe it's always been an issue for you. The choice is up to you. It's smart to ask God which C he thinks you should focus on.

Which C would you like to focus on for the rest of this journey?

- a. Comparison
- b. Control
- c. Comfort

YOU'VE BEEN ROBBED

Week 2: Level 4 of 4

Watch this quick video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

—

Recall which of the three C's you said you want to focus on in level 3.

I want to focus on _____.

—

How has your C robbed you in your relationships?

How has your C robbed you of fun and adventure?

How has your C robbed you in your spiritual life?

List the last five purchases you made that were all about your C. Be honest. You might need to look at your bank statement, or scroll through your email receipts.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Choose one of those purchases and explain the influence your C had on that purchase.

—

This level isn't quite finished yet—continue to the next page.

Consider challenging yourself. Let's dig a little deeper.

Respond to **only one** of the next three questions based on the C you chose to explore previously.

Comfort

Think about how hard you work to stay in your comfort zone. What if you were more open to being uncomfortable? What are some examples of how your life could be better?

Control

Think about how hard you work to stay in control. What if you were more open to letting go? What are some examples of how your life could be better?

Comparison

Think about how much energy you spend measuring yourself against others. What if you ignored popular opinion for awhile? What are some examples of how your life could be better?

—

Great job with the honesty. Now it's time for show and tell.

Find something you already own that represents your C and bring it to your group.

If you can't bring it, take a fantastic photo and be prepared to share. If it's your gun, wine, or Star Trek collection, definitely just take a picture.

Actually, bring some of that wine collection.

If you have kids, here are some ways to engage with your family about the 3 C's.

If you don't have kids, you can skip to the next section. (Or, if you're really dedicated, call your mom and do one of these with her.)

Control Challenge

Your family is giving away \$50...but your kid(s) get to decide where it goes.

Comfort Challenge

Everyone talk about what you go to when we want to feel better. A favorite junk food? Binge-watching? Something else? Why do we go to those things for comfort?

Comparison Challenge

Let your kid(s) choose your clothes tomorrow. And, if you don't already, let them choose theirs too.

—

Last thing before group. Get some encouragement with this quick video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

GROUP CONTENT

Week 2: Level 5

LEADER, read out loud:

Welcome to group. Leader, if you are also using the app and there is anyone new, sync them now by tapping add.

*Pass this to the person who got up the earliest this morning.
Read out loud.*

Who would win the Hunger Games? Spend no more than 60 seconds debating this as a group.

- a. Ronald McDonald
- b. Wendy
- c. The Burger King King
- d. Taco Bell Chihuahua
- e. Colonel Sanders
- f. The Arby's guy who yells, "We have the meats!"

*Pass this to the person who got up the latest this morning.
Read out loud.*

Everyone answer: Describe a time you made a bad financial decision that you're now able to look back and laugh about. One minute each.

LEADER:

Say this prayer out loud.

God, thank you for this time and for every person here. May your presence be strong and peaceful. May you quiet all that would distract us during this time. Make this a safe place to talk about hard things. Help us to be good listeners and open to what you have for us. Stay with us on this journey. Thank you. Amen.

LEADER, read out loud:

Show and Tell

Your homework was to bring an item or a photo that represents your C. If you didn't do it, start Googling. Now follow these steps:

1. One person share what you brought without explaining why. For example, "I brought a chainsaw."
2. The rest of the group should guess what C your item represents.
3. Explain why you brought your item.
4. Choose someone to go next.

*Pass this to the person with the brightest socks.
Read out loud.*

What stood out to you from the weekend message? Three minutes for the group to answer.

Pass this to the tallest person. Read out loud.

This week we considered how our C impacts our relationships, our fun and adventure, and our spiritual life. From your answers below, share something that stands out to you. One minute per person. I'll go first.

Pass this to the shortest person. Read out loud.

Each person talk about the purchase that you considered in your individual work and how your C influenced that purchase. One minute per person.

*Pass this to the person who last ate the meats at Arby's.
Read out loud.*

As a group, discuss how your lives could be different without the influence of your C. Five minutes for group discussion. Go.

LEADER, read out loud:

Great job sharing. Open the envelope for week two and follow the instructions. When you are all done return to this spot in the app—we still have a little more to do.

*Pass this to the person wearing the most black.
Read out loud.*

How did it go? Everyone take turns sharing what challenge you chose and why. Take 20 seconds each.

LEADER, read out loud:

The challenges that you selected are simply opportunities to take a risky step toward faith. God loves to grow our faith and his word offers us encouraging promises as we move forward. Consider these promises from Jesus as we read aloud the next three Bible verses. The three people to my right will read.

Read aloud:

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
Luke 12:32

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
John 14:27

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
John 16:33

Each person flip back through the verses and choose the one that resonates, or encourages you the most. When you find it, take a photo or screenshot. Then raise your hand to signify you're done.

Take turns sharing which verse you chose and why. Everyone gets 20 seconds.

—

A little housekeeping before we end.

1. Do your challenge.
2. Do it soon! You will definitely need to complete your C challenge before you move on to the individual work in week three.

Raise your hand if you chose "comfort." Keep 'em up.

OK, one of the comfort folks, please pray for the group and then we're done.

Best. Group. Ever.

See you next week!

WEEK 3

THE WORLD WANTS YOUR OBSESSION

WEEKEND MESSAGE

Week 3: Level 1 of 5

You know the drill by now. If you missed the weekend message, watch it at crossroads.net.

—

What stood out from the message?

What bugged you?

What questions do you have?

Who would win the Great British Baking Show?

- a. LeBron James
- b. Tom Brady
- c. Michael Phelps
- d. Serena Williams
- e. John Calipari
- f. Lindsey Vonn

One level done. Four to go.

—

CHALLENGE RECAP

Week 3: Level 2 of 5

In last week's group, you received a challenge based on the "C" that you chose.

Why did you choose that specific challenge?

If you already completed your challenge, how did it go? If you didn't, when will you complete it?

In what ways are you noticing that the C you chose negatively affects your life?

In what ways does the C you chose affect the way you spend your money?

Good work. Next level. Go.

—

JOHN 14:6

Week 3: Level 3 of 5

Check out this story at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials from Brian Tome about Jesus, the kingdom of God, and the importance of the church.

—

In that video, Brian talked about the importance of having Jesus as the authority in your life. Let's take a minute to consider what you believe about Jesus.

Jesus said: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
John 14:6

This statement means that the only path to truly having impact—and finding freedom from our obsessions with comfort, control, and comparison—involves following Jesus.

—

Based on all that Jesus said and did, the Apostle Paul had this to say about him:

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
Philippians 2:9-11

Do you believe Jesus is who he says he is?

- a. Yes
- b. Not Yet

If you answered YES:

Great! Everything that comes next in the OBSESSED Journey is done with the assumption that Jesus spoke truthfully when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life," and the ONLY way to change the world is to follow his lead.

If you answered NOT YET:

Even if you aren't fully on board with Jesus yet, continue on this journey. You're in good company. Crossroads is a place for people who are asking tough questions. Just know that everything from here on out is done with the assumption that Jesus spoke truthfully when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

If you have questions about what this means, talk to your group leader.

—

Sweet. Keep going.

THE CHURCH

Week 3: Level 4 of 5

Jesus talked often about the kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God), a place where he is the king. And this kingdom isn't a rough, ugly, Game of Thrones sort of place. It's not a physical location. Instead, He described it like this:

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Matthew 13:44

The man in this example saw something so radical and beautiful and revolutionary compared to his current life that he gave up all he had to get it. He was obsessed. Jesus said the kingdom is worth everything. All our attention. All our focus. All our obsession.

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being, "Jesus-level," how obsessed are you with pursuing the kingdom? That means with your money and your time. Be honest.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Now, on the same scale, how obsessed do you want to be with pursuing the kingdom?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

When we make the decision that Jesus asks us to make—give everything to get in on his kingdom—we join a group of scrappy, focused, driven people who are doing the same. Today, we call that group the "church." Here's a description of how the early followers of Jesus did church:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
Acts 2:42-47

What is attractive to you in that description of church?

In that story from Acts, we see that everyone in the church sacrifices to pool their resources so, through the team, people's lives can be transformed. Despite its flaws, that's how the church has operated all over the world for thousands of years. And we see that happening at Crossroads every day. Check out this short video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

What is something good that has happened in your life because of the church?

Onward to the final level for this week.

—

PUSHING BACK

Week 3: Level 5 of 5

Jesus spoke often to his followers about money because he cares about us and he knows the power money has to distract us. As you've already seen, Jesus taught:

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."
Matthew 6:24

On a scale of 1-10 how much have you involved Jesus in your decisions around how you spend your money?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

—

Think about the C you chose to focus on.

Where in your spending do you feel you can make an adjustment to push against that C?

What funds would be freed up if you did that?
Be specific. Amount per day, per week, per year, whatever works.

Before you go, as you've already seen in Matthew 6:19-33, Jesus promises to provide for us. In Romans 8:28, Paul shares this promise from God:

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

Assuming those promises are true, as you consider making changes to your life to push back against the world and seek God's kingdom, what is your prayer to God? What do you need from Him? Write it here:

—

All done. Get to that group.

GROUP CONTENT

Week 3: Level 6

LEADER, read out loud:

Welcome to group. Leader, if you are also using the app and there is anyone new, sync them now by tapping add.

You're climbing Mt. Everest. Which Tom Hanks do you want as your sherpa? Spend no more than 60 seconds debating this as a group.

- a. A League of Their Own Tom Hanks
- b. Castaway Tom Hanks
- c. Forrest Gump Tom Hanks
- d. Apollo 13 Tom Hanks
- e. DaVinci Code Tom Hanks
- f. Toy Story Tom Hanks

Pass this to someone who chose "comfort."
Read out loud.

Last week, we each left with a challenge based on the "C" that we chose. Each person take up to two minutes and talk about how your challenge went and what you learned.

Pass this to the person who ate gluten most recently.
Read out loud.

Jesus said this about the kingdom of God:

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
Matthew 13:44

What does that verse say about how we are to view and pursue the kingdom? Five minutes for the group.

Pass this to the person sitting furthest away from the leader.
Read out loud.

Which one is the biggest waste of money? Judge each other for no more than 60 seconds.

- a. \$4 coffee
- b. \$40 trash can
- c. \$400 cooler
- d. \$4,000 mattress
- e. \$40,000 car

Pass this to the person sitting closest to the bathroom.
Read out loud.

What does it mean to be obsessed with the church?
Five minutes for the group.

Pass this to the person who arrived last.
Read out loud.

Let's look again at the description of the early church:

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."
Acts 2:42-47

Where do you see this happening in your church community today? Five minutes for group discussion.

*Pass this to the person who arrived first.
Read out loud.*

Part of that verse talks about the church sharing their resources to take care of each other and to reach other people. In the individual work we all considered how we could free up resources (and push back against our “C”) to more invest in the kingdom. Discuss those results now for five minutes as a group.

LEADER, read out loud:

Take out this week’s group challenge from the envelope. We are going to get a crash course in the power of the church. When you are finished with that, this week is over.

See you next week!

—

WEEK 4

THE WORLD WANTS YOUR OBSESSION

WEEKEND MESSAGE

Week 4: Level 1 of 5

Last time. If you missed the weekend message, watch it online now at crossroads.net.

—

What stuck out from the message?

What bugged you?

What questions do you have?

Who would win a 100 yard dash (running required)?

- a. Gandalf
- b. Dumbledore
- c. Wicked Witch of the West
- d. Merlin
- e. Doctor Who

First level done. Keep moving.

—

THE GEARS

Week 4: Level 2 of 5

Visit crossroads.net/obsessed/materials to watch this video of Brian Tome teaching about how generosity can look in the world. Dig in, it's about eight minutes long, but well worth it.

What stood out to you in that video?

Based on all you've heard, in which gear do you think you are operating when it comes to generosity?

- a. Optional
- b. Ordered
- c. Optimal
- d. Obsessed

Describe why you answered that way:

The Bible says:

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-5

Spend some time with God right now asking him what he thinks about the gear you chose. Listen for what he says.

If you selected Optional, Ordered, or Optimal: what is keeping you from progressing to the next gear?

If you selected Obsessed: The world is always trying to slow you down. What steps do you feel you need to take to continue operating in the obsessed gear?

—

That's strong work that most people in the world don't do. Just a couple more levels to go.

RADICAL INVESTMENT

Week 4: Level 3 of 5

Check out this video at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials from Greg Baumer and John Cortines, the authors of *God & Money*, sharing more of what they learned in their research about generosity.

—

What stood out to you in that video? That might be God trying to prompt you about something.

In that video, Greg and John talked about what they've gain through radical generosity.

Revisit the last prompt on Week 3, Level 5, where you wrote a specific prayer to God.

As you consider aligning your finances more with God's Kingdom, what is your prayer? What are you asking him to do for you?

You're almost there. Do another now.

—

GOD'S REASSURANCES

Week 4: Level 4 of 5

Before you go on, let God's promises and assurances in Matthew 6:19-33 encourage you. Watch this reading of those words one more time at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

Now that you've spent four weeks with that teaching from Jesus, what stands out?

One more level to go. Yes!

—

YOUR PLAN

Week 4: Level 5 of 5

The remainder of the OBSESSED Journey is customized to each participant. Please answer the following question to help with that process.

Do you have an I'M IN commitment at Crossroads?
(That means you made a formal commitment to give a specific amount of money above and beyond your regular giving, probably in November 2015.)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No, because I attend another church.

What you answered for that question will determine the page you turn to next.

If you answered (a) YES, skip to page 38.

If you answered (b) NO, skip to page 39.

If you answered (c) NO, BECAUSE I ATTEND ANOTHER CHURCH, continue to page 35.

—

For Non-Crossroads Folks

What is the name of your church community?

Watch this quick video of Brian Tome explaining how the OBSESSED Journey is going to end at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

Do you want to make an I'M IN commitment?

- a. Yes
- b. No

What you answered for that question will determine the page you turn to next.

If you answered (a) YES, continue to page 36.

If you answered (b) NO, skip to page 37.

—

For Non-Crossroads Folks Making an I'M IN Commitment

What excites you about participating in I'M IN?

What do you think God is saying to you about making an I'M IN commitment?

Making an I'M IN commitment means pledging to give a specific amount of money to the church, above and beyond your normal giving, between now and December 31, 2019. This is a powerful way to push back against the world and seek first the kingdom.

First, what are some things you can do to free up funds to make an I'M IN commitment?

Right now, what number are you thinking about giving towards I'M IN (money given to the church above and beyond your normal giving between now and December 31, 2019)? Relax, you're not making a commitment. This is just processing time.

I think my I'M IN commitment between now and Dec 31, 2019 could be:

Great job! Now skip ahead to **page 40**.

—

For Non-Crossroads Folks Not Making an I'M IN Commitment

What strategy do you want to follow regarding how generous you are with your money?

As Brian said in the video, to end the OBSESSED Journey you will be creating a two-year giving plan for your church community. This is a declaration that you won't let the world control you but you will instead seek first the kingdom.

You can create this plan by either declaring a total dollar amount that you want to give in each of the next two years (2018-2019), or a % of your income.

Write down the numbers that you're considering below. Relax, you're not making a commitment. This is just processing time.

Great job! Now skip ahead to **page 40**.

—

For People with an Existing I'M IN Commitment

Watch this quick video of Brian Tome explaining how the OBSESSED Journey is going to end at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

—

What strategy do you want to follow regarding how generous you are with your money?

As Brian said in the video, to end the OBSESSED Journey you will be creating a two-year giving plan for your church community. This is a declaration that you won't let the world control you but you will instead seek first the kingdom.

You can create this plan by either declaring a total dollar amount that you want to give in each of the next two years (2018-2019), or a % of your income.

Write down the numbers that you're considering below. Relax, you're not making a commitment. This is just processing time.

Great job! Now skip ahead to **page 40**.

—

For Crossroads Folks without an Existing I'M IN Commitment

Watch this quick video of Brian Tome explaining how the OBSESSED Journey is going to end at crossroads.net/obsessed/materials.

—

What excites you about participating in I'M IN?

What do you think God is saying to you about making an I'M IN commitment?

Making an I'M IN commitment means pledging to give a specific amount of money to the church, above and beyond your normal giving, between now and December 31, 2019. This is a powerful way to push back against the world and seek first the kingdom.

First, what are some things you can do to free up funds to make an I'M IN commitment?

—

Right now, what number are you thinking about giving towards I'M IN (money given to the church above and beyond your normal giving between now and December 31, 2019)? Relax, you're not making a commitment. This is just processing time.

I think my I'M IN commitment between now and Dec 31, 2019 could be:

Great job! Now skip ahead to **page 40**.

—

For Everyone

What's your plan?

Well done. This is hard work.

Now spend some time thinking about those numbers. Talk to those closest to you, especially your spouse if you're married. Definitely ask God in prayer if this is what he wants you to do. You'll have an opportunity this coming weekend to do something with it.

Also, something to consider during this process is how the world might push back against you using your C.

Think about the C you chose to work on.

We have some hints on how that might play out with your "C."

—

For COMPARISON:

That's one way the world could say to you, "Hey, don't forget about me." You'll probably experience comparison at an intense new level—and may find yourself measuring up against others even more. You may feel excluded or annoyed that you have to forgo a purchase that would elevate your Insta status. This is where the good stuff happens—where you give God the space to show up and meet your needs, overcoming your worries with a sense of peace, and crushing that feeling you aren't enough. Because God says you are.

For COMFORT:

Your desire for comfort may come roaring back as you consider increasing your generosity. That's one way the world could say to you, "Hey, don't forget about me." You'll probably start noticing even more things you'd like to own that bring you comfort. Your most comfortable ways will seem even more appealing. You might start listing all the things you can't have because you've earmarked that money for generosity. You will feel uncomfortable, but that's where the good stuff happens—where you give God the space to show up and meet your needs, fulfilling your longings with a sense of peace, and crushing that feeling that something is still missing. Because with God, there isn't.

For CONTROL:

Your desire for control may come roaring back as you consider increasing your generosity. That's one way the world could say to you, "Hey, don't forget about me." You'll probably start noticing the "what ifs"—thoughts in your head that say things like "What if an unexpected expense comes up and I need that money?" or "What if I can't save as much this month?" You'll want to hold tight to your bank balances, or feel especially annoyed that you can't plan everything perfectly. Surrendering control is where the good stuff happens--where you give God the space to show up and meet your needs, overcoming your worries with a sense of peace, and squashing that feeling that there's something else you need to plan. Because God has your back.

—

You're done with your individual work for the week. Now get to your final group meeting!

GROUP CONTENT

Week 4: Level 6

LEADER, read out loud:

Welcome to group. Leader, if you are also using the app and there is anyone new, sync them now by tapping add.

You're running for mayor. Which Samuel L. Jackson is your campaign manager? Spend no more than 60 seconds debating this as a group.

- a. Snakes on a Plane Samuel L. Jackson
- b. Pulp Fiction Samuel L. Jackson
- c. Unbreakable Samuel L. Jackson
- d. Avengers Samuel L. Jackson
- e. Shaft Samuel L. Jackson
- f. Star Wars Samuel L. Jackson

I'll say a quick prayer before we dig in:

God, thank you for this time and gathering us together. Be with us as we move through discussion. May we know your voice, your truth and your presence. Help us to be good listeners. Help us to know better your love and freedom. Help us to experience the joy that comes from seeking you and your kingdom. You are good. Amen.

Pass this to the person who is most obsessed with March Madness. Read out loud.

Last week, we chose someone in the group to be blessed. Take ten minutes as a group and discuss how it went. How did it feel? What surprised you? What were you nervous about?

Receiver, we want to hear from you, too.

Pass this to the person closest to the bathroom. Read out loud.

This week we heard from John and Greg, the authors of God and Money. What stood out about what they had to say? Everyone goes, one minute per person.

Pass this to the person who answered last on the previous question. Read out loud.

This week, we considered the four gears of generosity: optional, ordered, optimal, and obsessed. Take ten minutes and discuss the gears as a group. Bonus points if you share what gear you are operating in and why.

Pass this to the person with the worst eyesight. Read out loud.

Ok, let's just go there. This week, if you don't have an I'M IN commitment, you considered making one. If you do have an I'M IN commitment, you considered a giving plan for the next two years. You don't have to share your number, but discuss what you think God is saying to you.

Pass this to the person with the longest hair. Read out loud.

Another thing the church does is pray for each other. We're going to do that now. Here's how:

1. Go around the room—everyone gets a turn.
2. Revisit the prayer you created in your individual work this week.
3. When it is your turn, share your prayer request with the group.
4. The person to your left says a quick prayer for you. If this is the first time you've prayed out loud, this is a great time to do it. Don't overthink it, just talk to God.
5. Continue on until everyone in the group has been prayed for.

LEADER, read out loud:

Well done. We're concluding our final OBSESSED group meeting. It's time for the final envelope. Finish strong.