Love in Chaos

Session 6: Love Without End

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: Reflecting on the brevity of our lives leads us to make the most of our days, exercising our faith in Christ for the good of others.

Head Change: To know that our lives are short and can be lived fully for Christ.

Heart Change: To feel motivated to share the love of Christ with others.

Life Change: To practice our faith in Christ by engaging the world around us with the love of God.

OPEN

What is the riskiest thing you've ever done? What compelled you to take that risk? What was the result?

Taking risks can be frightening. It can also be invigorating. Many things worth doing—from proposing to our significant other to applying for a promotion at work—involve a certain amount of risk. In life, risk is virtually inescapable.

Risk-taking can also be a significant part of our faith. "Taking our faith out for a spin," whether it's something like loving our enemy or sharing the gospel, can feel pretty risky. What if things don't turn out the way we plan? What if something goes wrong? What if we experience rejection? All of these are possible. And all of them are worth the risk. In this final session, Bob will encourage us to make the most of the days we've been given by taking the risk of exercising our faith in real and practical ways.

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VIEW

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Bob Goff's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

What can happen when we develop myths to explain what has happened in our lives?

Who is it that ultimately leads people to Jesus?

Who should we rely on to define for us what true faith is?

Watch Session 6: *Love Without End* (10 minutes).

REVIEW

Bob opened this session by alluding to the myths he grew up believing. After some unfortunate events during his childhood, he began telling himself that everyone would eventually leave him. And he believed it. **Did you develop any myths like Bob's when you were growing up? If so, what were they? For what reasons did you develop these stories? To what degree do you still struggle with them?**

Part of Bob's goal in this series has been to help us identify myths we believe so we can replace them with what's true—that God doesn't look "in your mirror and wish he saw somebody else. He wants you to be you." **How would you describe what Bob means when he says that God "wants you to be you"?**

What is true about you? What does it look like to believe what's true of you and reject what's not?

Our lives breeze by much faster than we'd like, and Bob challenged us to make the most of the time we've been given. **In what ways have you come to realize that life is short? How do you feel about the brevity of your life? What's your response to the reality that life goes by quickly?**

On the topic of making meaningful use of our time, Bob shared an example of what he and his wife did with their kids to put faith into action in a meaningful way. They wrote letters to world leaders and asked them to share a message of hope. It was a grand gesture that took a lot of faith. **How does your faith in Christ inform the way you use your time? What are the one or two most important things you want to spend your life doing? Are you currently doing those things? If not, why?**

Bob talked a lot in this session about "taking your faith out for a spin," or putting your faith into practice. **In what ways do you put your faith into practice now? What are some of the ways you aspire to put your faith into practice? What's stopping you from doing those things now?**

Bob said he doesn't "think we lead people to Jesus." Instead, "Jesus leads people to Jesus." **In what ways can Jesus's role in bringing people to himself alleviate the pressure we sometimes feel around service and**

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evangelism? What might change about our evangelism and service to others if we remind ourselves that Jesus is the one who changes hearts?

Bob encouraged us to relinquish control and let the Spirit of God reveal to us, individually and as a community, what move he wants us to make next. **What does it look like for you to follow the Holy Spirit's leading in your life? How does following the Spirit's promptings impact your interactions with those around you?**

Comparison can hinder our faith and our ability to see what God's doing in our life. So, Bob encouraged us not to compare ourselves with what he's doing in other people. "God never compares what he creates," Bob said, "and he's created in you something really special." **In what ways has comparison blinded you to the work of God in your life?**

What is God doing in your life right now? How can you keep yourself from engaging in comparison?

As he closed this series, Bob told us to take away all the things we're known for—all the titles and roles and superficial identities we tend to wear—and focus on who we are at our core. **What are some of the titles or identities you identify with? In what ways can those identities skew your perception of yourself? When all those identifiers are stripped away, who are you at your core?**

We can make the most impact in this life by engaging people with the love of Christ, obeying his commands, and exercising our faith as the Spirit leads us. **What are some practical ways you can extend love to the people you encounter every day? What acts of obedience and steps of faith is the Spirit leading you to take right now?**

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Our lives are surprisingly brief. We can often overlook the brevity of life and, in doing so, arrogantly presume that we have ample time to do the good we've been called to do. But tomorrow is not promised for us. We are commanded to do good today. Read James 4:13–16.

In this passage, James is kindly reprimanding his readers who assume they have plenty of time in life to do whatever they wish. **What stands out to you most about James's words here? In what ways does James's reprimand apply to you personally?**

The disobedience being corrected in this passage is what some call the sin of presumption: assumptions about God or his dealings with us, which can lead to spiritual laziness or outright rebellion. **Have you ever been guilty of the sin of presumption? If so, in what ways? How can we correct our false presumptions about God?**

The presumption being made here is that we have unlimited time. In response, James says that we don't know how much time we have. We're "like a vapor": here for a little while and then gone. **What are some general or personal examples of how we live as if we have unlimited time?**

For what reasons is it unwise to live like time is not limited? What are some of the negative consequences of living with the presumption that we have unlimited time?

This passage is humbling. It reminds us not only that our time is short, but that God is in control of our days. We don't know what tomorrow will bring, so we are called to live faithfully unto God *today*. **What does it look like for you to submit humbly to God each day?**

James sums up in verse 16 saying, "It is sin to know the good and yet not do it." That's often the case with us—we forego doing good because we assume we'll have a chance to do it tomorrow, next week, or next month. But because tomorrow is not promised to us, the only real opportunity we have to obey God is today. Now. **How can you stay mindful that tomorrow is not promised to you? What good has God given you to do today? What could**

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it look like for you to obey God today instead of putting it off until later?

LAST WORD

Life is short—there's no getting around it. Bob said twenty-eight thousand days is all we have, give or take. What will we do with the time that's been given to us?

In this series, Bob has encouraged us to make the most of our days by exercising our faith in real and practical ways—bridging the divides in our culture, using kind words, and loving our neighbors and enemies. These habits and more are how we can make our faith visible before a world desperate for the love of God in Christ.

Think about what you've learned over the course of this study. **What's one thing you've learned during this series that has stuck with you? What is one thing you plan to implement as a result of having watched this series?**

When we put the love of God on display and follow the leading of his Spirit, there's no telling what he'll do through us. So, take what you've learned from Bob in this series and put it into practice for the good of others. Go ahead, watch what happens.

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DEEPER WALK

Be Silent: One of Bob's encouragements in this session was to let the Spirit of God reveal what he wants us to do next. But we can't do that unless we stop what we're doing and listen to him. This week, spend a few minutes each morning in silence and listen prayerfully. Ask the Holy Spirit what he wants you to do each day.

Be Obedient: After we've heard from God, we should do what he says. As James says, we are to be doers of the Word and not hearers only (James 1:22). Whatever God tells you to do in his Word, practice doing it.

Take a Risk: This session began by discussing the concept of risk-taking. The exercise of our faith, in a lot of ways, can be risky. So, this week, take a risk rooted in faith: Ask the waitstaff at lunch if you can pray for him or her, ask a coworker if he or she will tell you their story, or give a financial gift to someone in need. Whatever you choose, view the risk as an opportunity to exercise your faith in God.

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