



DISCUSSION GUIDE

This discussion guide was created for use in small groups, but it may also be useful for individuals reading through this book alone. This guide uses each chapter of *Mirror Ball* and many of Matt's songs—including some of the very newest songs from his album *10,000 Reasons*—as a launching pad into honest discussion of the ideas, challenges, and biblical themes raised. If you're going through this guide with a group, your spouse, or a friend, try to remain open, honest, and compassionate in your discussion, and if you feel comfortable, pray through each session before you begin.

We are the risen
Living alive in You
And our passion will not die,
No our passion will not die.
Nothing can stop us;
We'll be running
through the night
And our passion will not die,
No our passion will not die.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, "We Are the Free."

God who keeps our
fires burning,
Burning through the
darkest night,
See the hope in our hearts,
The faith in our eyes.
You can move the
highest mountain;
You can keep our dreams alive.
You're the joy of our hearts,
And You're the fire in our eyes.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, "Fires."



I

THE PASSION OF THE CHRISTIAN

Questions

With your group or on your own, recall the story about Louie Giglio's mirror ball that Matt tells us at the beginning of chapter 1. Before the lights came on, Matt felt that the mirror ball was undersized, too small and insignificant to make a difference in that giant arena in Nashville.

1. Have you ever felt that way in your Christian walk? Do you ever feel too insignificant to make a difference for God's kingdom? Why or why not? Share

about the areas you have felt *significant* or *insignificant* in the past.

2. In terms of worship, mission, and your Christian life, what would you do if God shined His light on you and you could reflect it all around the world? If His light was enough to make a difference in any place, in any way through you, what mission-focused dream would you carry out in the world?
3. What massive problems would you attempt to tackle?
4. In chapter 1 Matt talks about a man who was attacked by a shark. The man screamed from the depths of his being, so loudly that the shark swam away and the man survived. Do you agree that Christians should worship from that deep place inside? If worship isn't necessarily about volume or energy, what does that mean to you?
5. If our worship truly came from that desperate and powerful place inside us, what would that look like in our lives and in our church services?

Thoughts

In light of Louie's definition that passion is "the degree of difficulty you are willing to endure to achieve the goal," consider what Jesus

accomplished on the cross. How passionate, then, was Jesus to do His Father's will at the cross and to act out of love for us? Thinking about this, read through Mark 14 alone, and then discuss both the passion of Jesus and the passion of the disciples in this chapter with your group.

Then take a moment as a group to pray, and ask God to release more endurance, more love, and more passion for Him in your life.

You, O Lord, have made a way,
The great divide You healed;
For when our hearts
were far away
Your love went further still.
Yes, Your love goes further still.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin,
"You Alone Can Rescue."

You came to search and rescue
In love the Father sent You
Broke through the
darkest night.

You came to seek and save us,
You came to liberate us.
Jesus, You heard our cry.
Jesus, You heard our cry.

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, and Jason
Ingram, "Where Would We Be."



2

LOVE WILL GIVE ITS ALL

Questions

At the beginning of chapter 2, Matt writes about his newborn baby son, Levi, and the long, difficult fight for Levi's life during the pregnancy and his first few weeks and months. Matt writes about how it is a delight to expend energy and fight for his son because he loves him; in fact it isn't a labor at all—the struggle and difficulty are worth it.

1. Can you relate to this feeling of hard work and struggle given out of a deep love? What relationships require that in your life?
2. Later in that section, Matt quotes the following Scripture verse:

It burns like blazing fire,
like a mighty flame.
Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot wash it away. (Song 8:6–7)

What does this passage tell you about true love? When you think of your love for God, is it similarly powerful? Are you willing to scale great heights out of love for Jesus?

3. What do you think of our culture's example of love when compared to Jesus' example of love for us?

We see love in its purest form in what Jesus did for us on the cross. Matt describes the complexity of what Jesus did on the cross and how we can see themes of justice, sacrifice, suffering, obedience, endurance, and hope in His actions.

4. Discuss with your group, or think about on your own, how you see each of these unique and complex themes in what Jesus did on Calvary.

Thoughts

After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus talks with Peter and asks him, "Do you truly love me?" Peter responds by saying, "Yes, Lord." Jesus replies, "Feed my sheep." Read the text of John 21:15–17 and think about or discuss the meaning of Jesus' reply.

Then take a moment to pray, and ask God to help you to love others through your actions with Christ's pure love.

Magnificent—
You alone are holy,
No one else as glorious as You.

Magnificent—
Jesus, You are worthy,
Who can shine as
brightly as You do?

Magnificent—
You're so magnificent.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, "Magnificent."

We've walked through storms,
And we have walked
through sorrows.
Still You won't let them
Steal away tomorrow.
We are going to shine,
Now we are going
to shine for You.
We leave the old behind,
It will not define us no.
Yesterday is gone,
Now anything possible.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, "O This God."



3

BIG GOD, BIG LIFE

Questions

To illustrate the idea of taking up the challenge to live a big life for God, Matt describes at the beginning of chapter 3 John F. Kennedy's charge to go to the moon. As Matt says, human endeavor can take us to the edge of wonder, but worship of the almighty God takes us deep into wonder and worship in a way that nothing else can. And if we live for a big God, we ought to live big, adventurous lives, reflecting His radiance.

1. If it's true that God's massive, overpowering radiance overshadows any dullness inside us, does that give you more confidence in your Christian walk? If so, what does that confidence make you feel as if you *can* do today?
2. Read Psalm 18:29–33 and reflect on the things Scripture says we can do with God's help. Discuss or write down a list of the other things God has helped you accomplish already, or things He can help you accomplish in the future.

Recall the story about the four-minute mile in chapter 3. Once Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile, a barrier people believed was impossible to break, dozens of others broke the four-minute barrier in succession soon after. The previous record of 4 minutes, 1.3 seconds stood for nine years until Bannister's accomplishment.

3. With this story in mind, how important do you think our attitude and mental state are as we look to take on challenging tasks for the kingdom? Why?
4. Read Numbers 14:24 aloud with your group or to yourself. What does God say about Caleb's attitude and "spirit" in this verse? How greatly does Caleb's faithfulness affect what God allows him to accomplish? Why do you think this is so?
5. How can you be sure that your trust in God's great power, your attitude toward seemingly impossible

tasks, will help you accomplish all that He desires for you?

Thoughts

God does not like to be underestimated, Matt writes near the end of the chapter. This is because when we wholeheartedly trust God against all earthly logic, and we allow Him to work in big ways in our lives, He is glorified! Take a moment to think through your life. In a moment of silent reflection and prayer, process your day, your week—and think about how you can more accurately estimate God's massive, unquantifiable power working in your life tomorrow.

Take a moment to pray about this, asking God for the confidence to act on an impossible goal for His kingdom. Ask Him for the opportunity to give Him more glory through your life!

We will shine like stars
in the universe,
Holding out Your truth in
the darkest place;
We'll be living for Your glory,
Jesus we'll be living for Your glory.
We will burn so bright with
Your praise, O God,
And declare Your light to
this broken world;
We'll be living for Your glory,
Jesus we'll be living for Your glory.

Matt Redman, "Shine."

Yes our God is
All He says,
All He says He is.
Jesus, in Your name we
could change the world.
We stand in Your love,
In Your power,
All You say we are.
Jesus, in Your name we
could change the world

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, and Jason
Ingram, "We Could Change the World."



4

DROPS IN THE OCEAN

Questions

In this chapter, the discussion turns toward what impossible things we can accomplish *together* as the church, just as the many agencies of the US government came together to achieve Kennedy's challenge to get to the moon. Recall the Bill Hybels quote Matt cites from the book *Courageous Leadership*: "Still to this day the potential of the local church is almost more than I can grasp. No other organization on earth is like the church. Nothing even comes close."

1. If the great potential of the church is still largely untapped, what does that mean for the problems of the world? Do you think the church could be seen as being complacent?
2. If you could mobilize even a portion of the church, or even just your own church, to achieve three goals locally or nationally (or globally!), what would they be? Write them down or discuss them as a group. What would be the best use of the church's influence if we wielded it *together* for the kingdom of God?

Next we see an example of this in the “Do Something Now” giving campaigns of the students of the Passion college movement. Twenty-two thousand college students raised over \$1.1 million to help various causes around the world.

3. Why is it important for this message to sink in to the broader church? How could you see that happening?
4. Discuss ways you could challenge others in your church or city to think through this message and add their “drop” to the ocean. What kind of local projects in your area would change lives as well as open the door for you to share the gospel with others? Or you may want to get involved further afield. If you're looking for somewhere to start, check

out A21 (<http://www.thea21campaign.org>) or Do Something Now (<http://www.268generation.com/passion2010/dosomethingnow/>).

Thoughts

In our culture today people are often very isolated and can see many barriers to working with others. Pray about Matt's challenge to join the broader church in taking up big dreams for the kingdom of God, and ask God for opportunities to pool your talents and resources with others. Together we can accomplish so much more than we can by ourselves!

Who shall we say You are?

You're the Living God.

Who shall we say You are?

You're the Great I Am.

The highest name of all;

You're all You say You are.

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, and
Jason Ingram, "Holy."

And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us,
Then what could
stand against!

And if our God is for us,
Then who could ever stop us?

And if our God is with us,
Then what could
stand against!

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin,
and Jesse Reeves, "Our God."



5

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Questions

God is unchangeable, spotless, unfailing, and steadfast, and this is good news for our world today. We live in a world in which everyone falls short and the newspapers reveal scandals about politicians, rock stars, church leaders, and all kinds of public leaders every day. But we have to remember, as Matt writes, that “when all around is sinking sand, He is our solid ground.”

1. How we see God is critical when life gets tough. If we see Him as great and act as though He is who He says He is, that perspective will shape everything about our lives. So how do you see God? What names do you use when you pray to Him? Why?
2. God is described as a strong tower in the Bible, and He declares that He “will never be shaken.” How should this affect your daily life? Does this change how you face the storms of your life?

Midway through this chapter Matt describes how his sons surprise him in his own home by jumping on him from great heights. Their leaps from the top of the stairs imply that they trust their father to catch them, no matter what.

3. When you hear this analogy, what does it make you think about? Reflect on this story and what it says to you—and write down your thoughts and impressions—or discuss it aloud with your group.
4. If we're living with childlike faith and trust in God, what sorts of leaps is He encouraging us to take right now?

Thoughts

What sorts of practical steps can you take to infuse your life with a hopeful, expectant confidence? Say a thankful prayer to God every morning, or read the many grand names of God aloud each evening. Regularly read Scripture passages proclaiming His awesome power, or memorize verses that give you confidence so you can call on them when you need them.

Pray aloud with your group or on your own as you humbly ask God to instill a deep confidence in you, a confidence rooted in His strength.

You're rich in love,
And You're slow to anger;
Your name is great,
And Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find.

Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin, "10,000
Reasons (Bless the Lord)."

Standing on this mountain top,
Looking just how far
we've come,
Knowing that for every step
You were with us.
Kneeling on this battleground,
Seeing just how much
You've done,
Knowing every victory
Was Your power in us.

Matt Redman, Jason Ingram, and
Tim Wanstall, "Never Once."



6

10,000 REASONS

Questions

This is a chapter about worshipping God and the many things in this life and in the universe that drive us to that place of awe, wonder, and an overwhelming sense of God's glory. As Matt writes, "God's goodness and glory fly at us speedily and steadily from every imaginable angle."

1. What things lead you to worship God in the first place? And while you're singing songs about God's

glory, wherever that act might take place for you, what thoughts take you deeper into focusing completely on Him?

2. In the middle of your everyday routine, what is it that makes you suddenly—and perhaps even surprisingly—stop and praise God in amazement? Begin your own list of ten thousand reasons in a journal or diary. Add all your answers to the above questions to the list, and also add to the list as you go through your day and your week.

Midway through this chapter, Matt writes this line: “One of the qualities I most admire in a person, or indeed in a church congregation, is a *readiness* to worship.”

3. What does that phrase—“a readiness to worship”—mean to you? Think about this line and how it could apply to more than just singing songs to God and about God. How can you cultivate a readiness to worship not only personally but also in your community and your church?
4. Matt describes how he feels called to write about God’s greatness through song, even though he could never write enough songs to fully capture God’s glory. What do you feel called to do to try to communicate, share, or understand God’s greatness?

5. Reread 2 Chronicles 2:5–6 and ponder Solomon’s questions in these verses. He writes that the temple he plans to build will not be able to contain God. But Solomon continues and says that the highest heavens themselves cannot contain Him! When you think about our God, the One who simply cannot be contained because of His greatness, how do you feel?

Thoughts

Now that we’ve discussed the uncountable reasons we have to worship God, praise Him with all you’ve got! Seek to cultivate that sense of readiness in your life. Can you worship anywhere and at any time? Then why not prepare yourself and be ready to worship throughout your day? Keep your journal handy and whenever it strikes you, continue to build your list of ten thousand reasons as a regular act of worship.

Now pray with your group, or pray on your own, and thank God for some of the many reasons you stand ready to worship Him today.

I'm coming back to the
heart of worship,
And it's all about You,
All about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the
thing I've made it,
When it's all about You,
All about You, Jesus.

Matt Redman, "The Heart of Worship."

To You our hearts are open,
Nothing here is hidden.
You are our one desire.
You alone are holy,
Only You are worthy;
God, let Your fire fall down.

Matt Redman, Jesse Reeves, Tim Wanstall,
and Matt Maher, "Here for You."



7

THE RULE OF FIRST THINGS

Questions

Recall the discussion of the Rule of First Things in this chapter. Simply put, the rule is this: If we put God first and prioritize the things He prioritizes, everything else will take care of itself. As C. S. Lewis wrote: “Put first things first and we get second things thrown in. Put second things first and we lose both first and seconds things.”

1. If you put God and His priorities first in your life, does that guarantee you a life free of hardship and

struggle? If we prioritize our lives this way, what guarantees should we expect?

2. Read Matthew 6:31–34 to yourself or aloud with your group and then discuss. Talk or think about verse 33 and what this means in light of what you read in chapter 7. What things in your life would you say are second things and how should you treat them?

Take a moment and reread Matt’s description of his own life in the section called “My Experience” in chapter 7. In this section he describes the path his own life has taken whenever he’s chosen to put God first and prioritize His priorities. He writes that “choosing to walk this narrow road leads to the wide-open spaces of God.”

3. Do you trust that God will carry out His plan for you when you put Him first? Why or why not?
4. Read Psalm 138 and reflect on the promise that God “will fulfill his purpose for me” (v. 8). Do you believe that going about life in this way is naive or simplistic? Do you think God will honor your trust in Him?

Thoughts

Take some time to talk to God and thank Him for His awesome ways, which are so great that they are entirely unfathomable to us.

Thank Him for the plans that He has for your life and for the possibilities open to you on your journey with Jesus. Finally, tell Him how much you trust Him, how you will obey Him, and how you will follow His leading no matter what comes at you in this life.

When this passing
world is over,
We will see You face to face.
And forever we will worship;
Jesus, You are all to us.
Jesus, You are all to us.

Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher, Matt Redman,
and Jesse Reeves, "All to Us."

When I stand before Your throne,
Dressed in glory not my own,
What a joy I'll sing of on that day;
No more tears or broken dreams,
Forgotten is the minor key,
Everything as it was meant to be.
And we will worship,
Worship,
Forever in Your presence
we will sing.
We will worship,
Worship You,
An endless hallelujah to the King.

Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin, Tim Wanstall,
and Chris Tomlin, "Endless Hallelujah."



8

ENDLESS HALLELUJAH

Questions

In chapter 8 Matt introduces the dual ideas of the *everyday* and the *eternal* and how the kingdom of God is at work in our daily lives. God's kingdom is advancing at all times and is at work as much when you're washing the dishes as when you're at church on Sunday morning. God is interested and involved in your life right now.

1. How can we remember God's grand narrative, which ties all things together, and better see the

eternal in our everyday? Is there a way to remind yourself of this truth practically, every day?

2. Eugene Peterson says: “If we calculate the nature of the world by what we can manage or explain, we end up living in a very small world.” Do you agree with this statement and what it implies? What could this implication mean for you today?

In the book of Revelation, we read about massive battles, strange creatures, fires, earthquakes, plagues, judgment, and incredible epic events featuring multitudes of people and angels and other beings singing great songs of praise to God. This book is unlike any other in the Bible; however, it reminds us of the eternal endgame of God’s kingdom plan. It reminds us that God will carry out his plans and be victorious!

3. How can the bigger-picture perspective given by the book of Revelation help us as we navigate our everyday troubles? Why do you think it’s important to remember this eternal perspective?
4. When things get difficult, we must remember that bigger things are going on all the time. Look back over your answers to the previous questions. Write a list of the things you want to attempt for God with this eternal perspective, together with your church, knowing He can do anything, and with a holy confidence that He is always with you and has a plan for your life.

Thoughts

Take a few moments as a group or on your own to reflect on the bigger picture of God's eternal kingdom plans as you look at the week before you. Then pray over your week with this perspective in mind. Finally, pray over your list of ideas, thoughts, prayers, and goals for your life as you close out your study time. Give this list to God and go forward with confidence in His plan for you.

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3. C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1960), 131.