

Which challenges are limiting you or contributing to your analysis paralysis?

Type in chat

1. Confusion	2. Too many options	3. Fear of making the wrong choice
4. Fear of Failure	5. FOMO	6. Too much sacrifice
7. Family expectations	8. Too hard	9. Other

DISCERNING GOD'S



Dr Omar Djoeandy







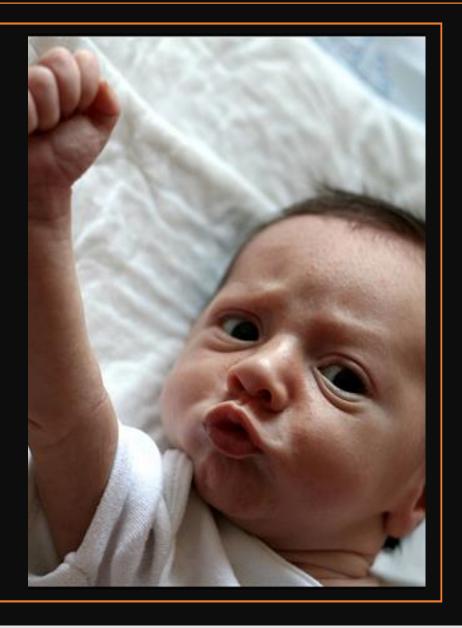


Everyone desires
to live for a cause
to fulfil a purpose
to make a difference
to be unique
and significant

God has created us for a purpose

"for this I was born ..."

"for such a time as this..."





But many Christians struggle to discern God's plan for their lives

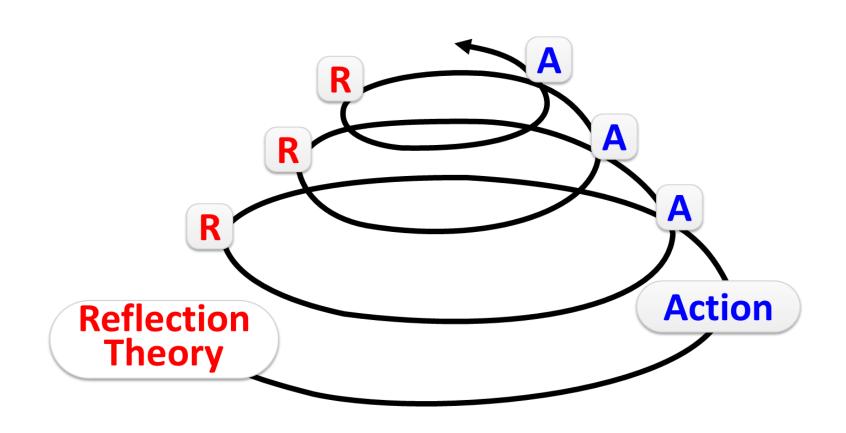


This workshop seeks to facilitate you to:

- 1. Focus
- 2. Foundation
 - Challenge your fears and foundational beliefs so you can grow in courage and be genuinely open to explore more options.
- 3. Freedom to explore viable options
- **4. Function in Community** to discern where Jesus is calling you to follow Him. ...

and you need to do the work.

Easier in theory and most challenging to apply for life





Jesus asked the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

Identify two to three areas where you would like to discern more clearly about God's "mission impossible" for you:

Jot down or write in chat



What do you want to see?

Perhaps our struggles to discern God's plan for our lives is related to a wrong focus?

Is God's plan for you an "End or Means to an End?" Guarantee of happiness? What is your destination or goal?



Our focus is often on what God wants us to Do or His plan

Why? What are you afraid of?

- Guarantee for our happiness?
- Risk, pain and suffering?

What if ...

- Your life's specifics, blueprint plan or happiness is NOT God's focus!
- God's plan for you includes significant risk, suffering and sacrifice?
- Will you accept and embrace that plan enthusiastically?

What does God want us to focus on?



1. Focus on Jesus

- BEING LIKE JESUS more than our happiness and success? Romans 8:28,29
- Includes sacrifice and suffering just like for Jesus Where do you want to grow to be more like Jesus?

1. Focus on the

Real Jesus of the Bible



David Platt in Radical warns against:

the dangerous temptation to take the Jesus of the Bible and twist Him into a version of Jesus we are more comfortable with.

A nice, middle-class, ... Jesus.

A Jesus who doesn't mind materialism. A Jesus who brings us comfort and prosperity as we live out our Christian spin on the American dream.

We are molding Jesus into our image.

And the danger now is that when we gather ... we may not actually be worshipping the Jesus of the Bible.

Instead we may be worshipping ourselves.

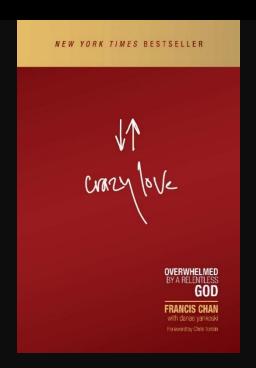
Resist the whirlpool of self-absorption



Identify where you might be tempted to be self-absorbed?

It is not scientific doubt, not atheism, not pantheism, not agnosticism, that in our day and in this land is likely to quench the light of the gospel.

It is a proud, sensuous, selfish, luxurious, church-going, hollow-hearted prosperity.



Frederic D Huntington, Forum magazine, 1890 Quoted by Francis Chan in *Crazy Love*





The World's Definition of Success
Essentially according to your possessions,
power, popularity, achievement, appearance,
and outward symbols

Worldly success attacks our identity and security

Jesus Directly Contradicts the World Is GREED a blind spot in our discipleship?



"Watch out!

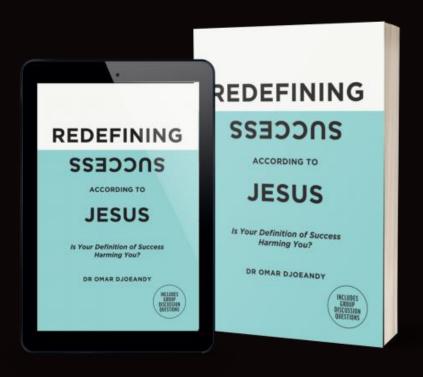
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:15

In one sentence Jesus contradicts worldly success.

"Life is not measured by how much you own" (NLT)

2. FOUNDATION REDEFINING SUCCESS ACCORDING TO JESUS



A. Being God's children (dependent on God more than self-sufficiency)

B. Kingdom-focused (more than self-absorbed)

C. Generous to the poor (more than hoarding and acquiring)



Being God's children

- Being is far more important than doing!
- To form our core identity and security more than possessions, outward symbols, etc.
- Inside-out
- Dependent on God, trust, surrender = success
- Risk-taking and sacrifice with Jesus

Chapter SEVEN

RL

Is You

Being God's Children

Theory to Action

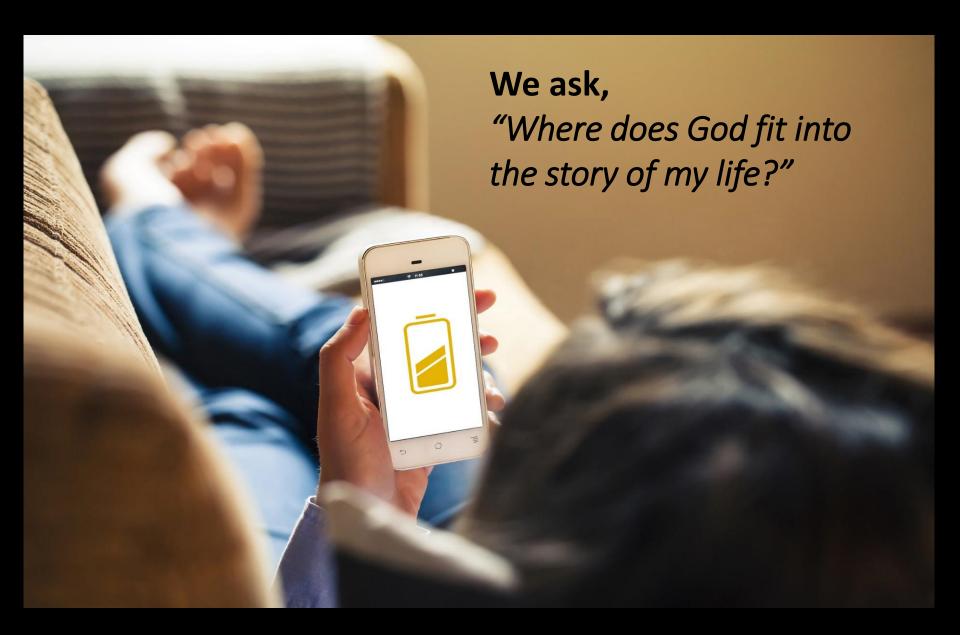
Where might you place your identity and security in other's approval, or your achievement, appearance, career, possessions, or outward symbols of worldly success more than in being God's child?

Usually exposed when you are suffering or need to sacrifice.

A minute silent reflection and jot down, then type in Chat

for me – approval, achievement Worksheet page 2

Have you added God's mission to your busy life?



God's story more than ours

We ask, "Where does God fit into the story of my life?"

When the real question is,

"Where does my little life fit
into this

great story of God's

mission."

Christopher Wright, The Mission of God



Divided and Distracted Life

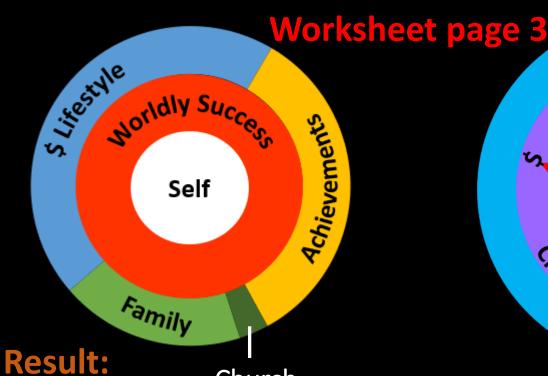
Integrated and **Enthusiastic Life**

God's story

Family

God's

Child 1



Reluctant subject, witness & giver

Church Kingdom Missions Jesus as additions to my busy life

Chila -

Hingdom

- 1. Core identity and security
- 2. Kingdom ambassador, witness, steward, servant of King Jesus
- Being child of God and Kingdom impacts every parts of my life in God's story

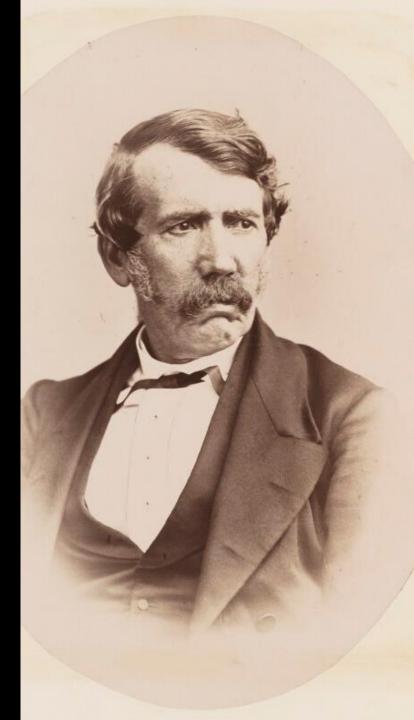
David Livingstone, missionary to Africa during the 1800s,

People talk of the sacrifices I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa....

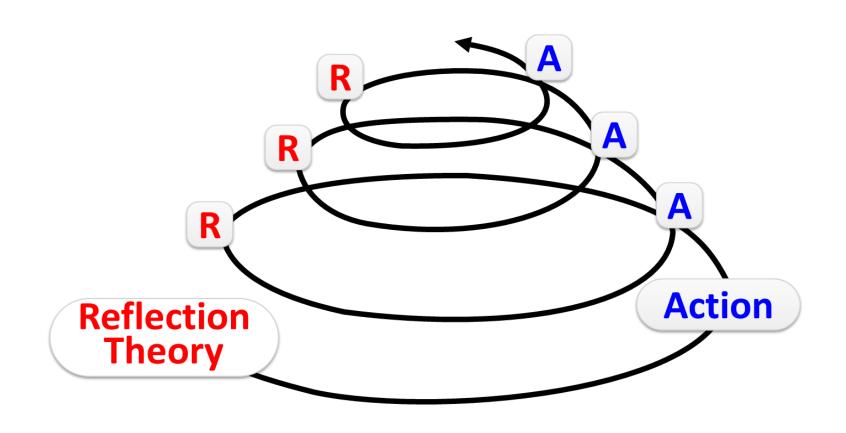
I never made a sacrifice.

We ought not to talk of 'sacrifice' when we remember the great sacrifice which he made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us."

Quoted by Francis Chan in *Crazy Love*



Easy in theory but most challenging to apply





Join Redefining Success according to Jesus 7-week Bible Study/Challenge to go deeper

Week	Topic
1	Identify Harmful Definitions and Blind Spots
2	Transformed by the Real Jesus
3	Being God's Children
4	Review, Celebrate and Apply
5	Being Kingdom-Focused
6	Giving Generously and in Community
7	Review, Celebrate and the Motivation

Online – Check out redefining success.com.au

3A. Freedom to Explore

Worksheet page 4



Dot Theory	"Circle" Theory
God's blueprint for your life	God gives us guidelines, boundaries, ideals to aim for and wisdom
Restricted to our interpretation of His will/Plan A = perfect, precise, ideal. What if we miss Plan A?	Freedom to choose from equally "good and perfect" options; What if we choose poorly?
Emphasis on unique spiritual experience or 'God's call'	Emphasis on "Wisdom" and Community
Sometimes downplay wisdom and community	Sometimes downplay unique spiritual experience
Go to a prayer retreat, get holy and download His Plan A?	Listening to God, wise counsel from community of Christ' followers

Your preference? Your practise? Alternating?

- Dot theory leads to waiting for a 'call', voice from heaven or a green light?
- When God has already spoken, are we listening and obeying?

Witness to family, friends, people around us and from other cultures, the least reached. Acts 1:6-8



3A. Freedom to Explore – In Practice?

Worksheet page 4

Dot Theory	"Circle" Theory	
Strong on God's sovereignty but weak on human free will/choice/responsibility, "God made me do it"	Room for both/and - God's sovereignty and human free will/choices/ responsibility	
Appears more definite, predictable	Mystery; sometimes less definitive	
We function more like robots, children – receive and implement	We function more like adults - agency, make and own choices	
Risk of following the blueprint more than listening to Jesus	Adaptability; Journey – one step, crest, bend at a time	
Individualistic - leadership and community just rubber-stamp	In community – invite input	

Your preference? Your practise?

3A. Freedom to Explore – When suffering?

Worksheet page 4

Dot Theory	"Circle" Theory		
Self-condemnation or self-doubt			
Temptation to blame God or others			
"Did I hear God correctly?"	"Did I/we choose wisely?" How can I respond well?		
Cling to God's call, no matter what – sometimes unwise?	Susceptible to avoid suffering under the guise of being wise		
Find new blueprint? Plan B, C, etc	Learn, adjust, adapt, pivot to new circumstances or season		

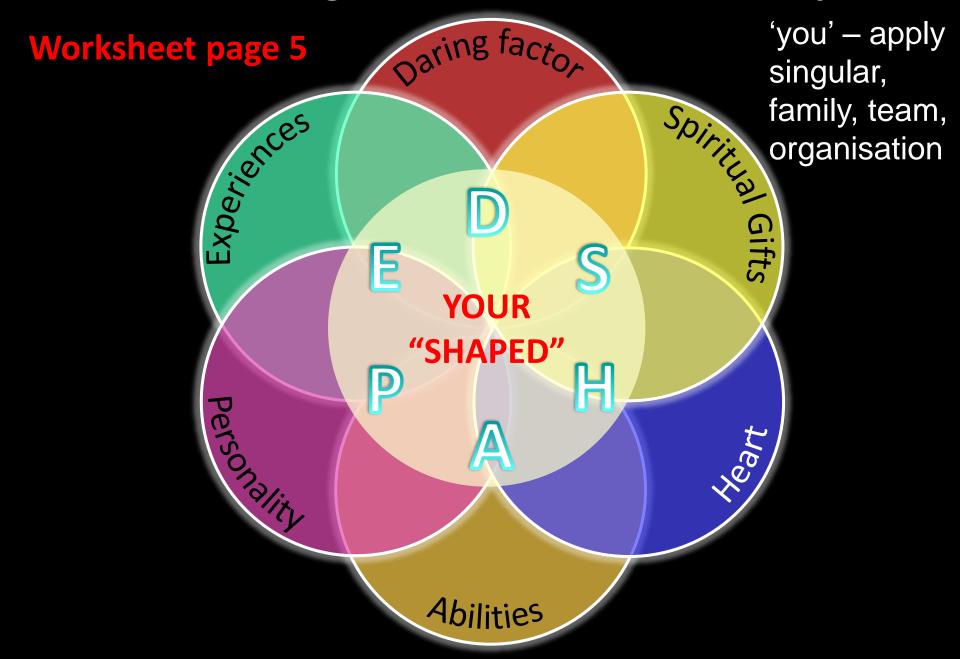
Your preference? Your practise?

Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Balancing God's sovereignty, grace and plan with our faith, responsibility and freedom to choose and bless.

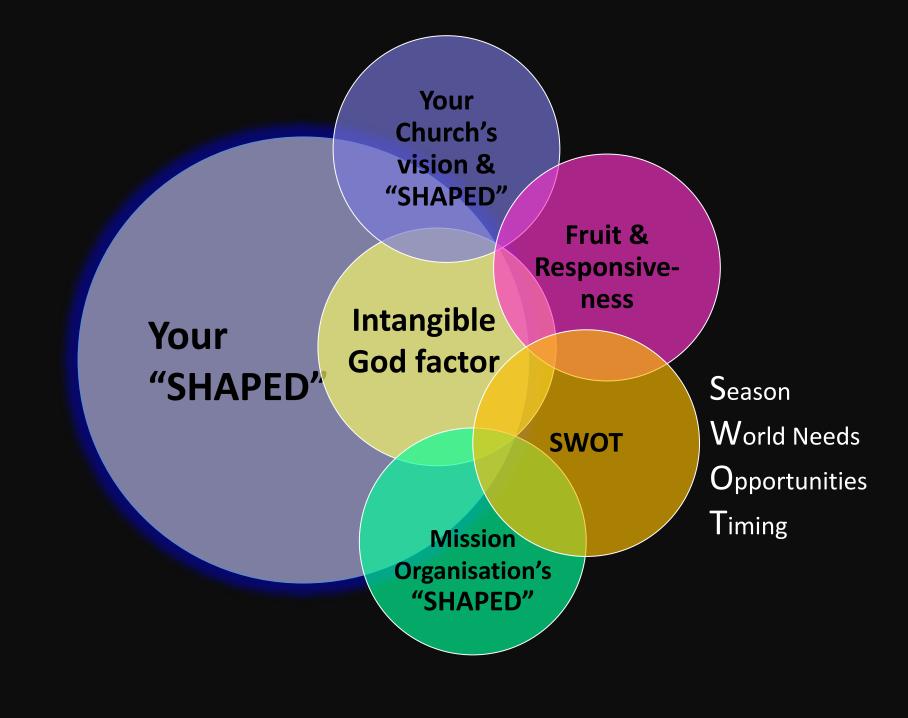
3B. Discerning how God has "SHAPED" you



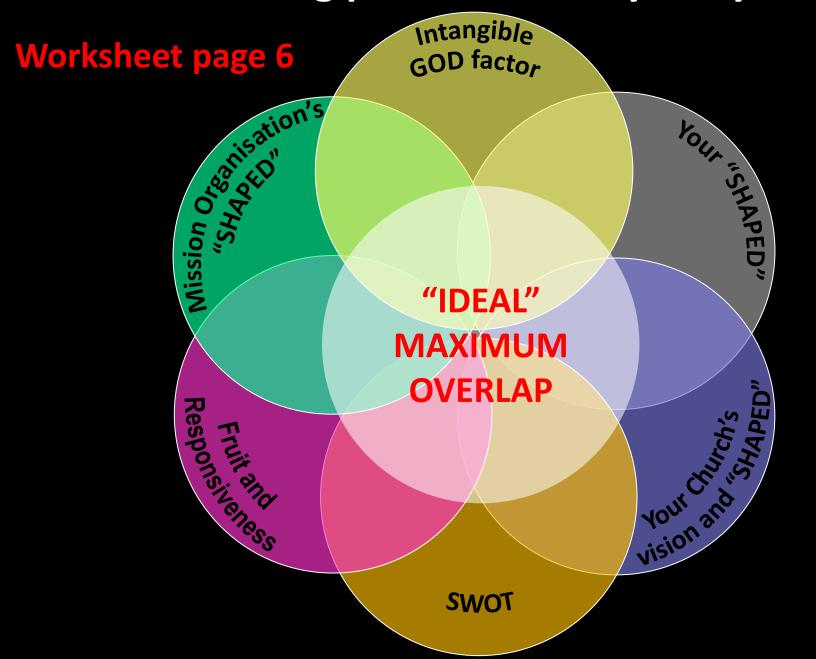
WAR ZONE 10 **DARING FACTOR** Give yourself a score **BOLD – EXTREME RISKS** between 1 to 10 Type your score in **OK WITH RISKS** chat How to **AVERAGE** Worksheet page 5 grow in courage? CAUTIOUS

3C. Discerning possibilities beyond yourself

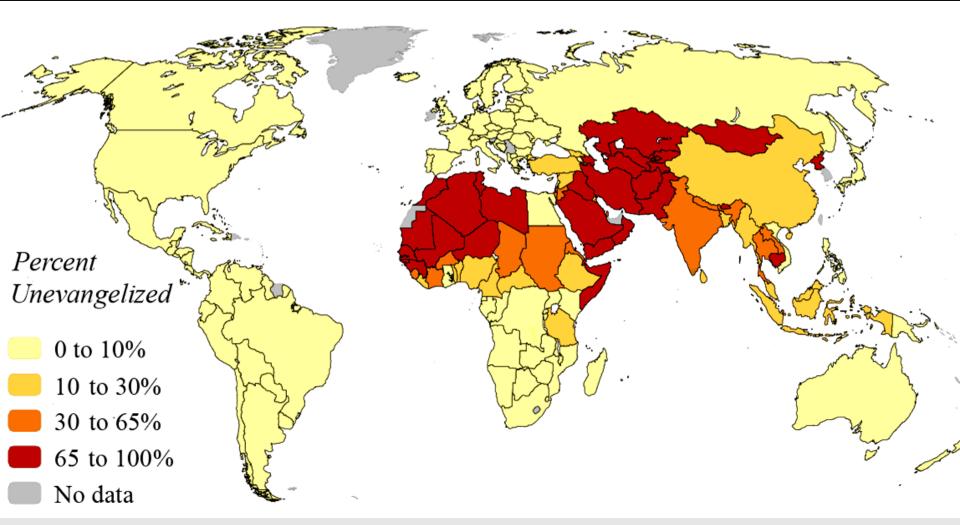




3C. Discerning possibilities beyond yourself



"Operation World" - Current Reality Percent Unevangelized Per Country





But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:14 NLT



Waiting to hear about Jesus Perhaps they are "unreached" simply because no one has gone to be with them?

4. Function in Community

You cannot do it alone

Who are you journeying with to point out your blind spots, help you focus and for support and accountability?





Picture of us?



Joyful and radiant in a team



Identify a few steps God is inviting you to take

- **•**.....
- **•**.....
- *****.....



Periodic follow up group coaching on Discerning God's Mission Impossible for you

Online and usually every 2 months. For information on the next one, email

omar.djoeandy@sim.org.au

Free and invitation to support my ministry with SIM Australia

