



Study Guide

Church of the Messiah
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About This Study Guide

This Study Guide is designed for use by Messiah group leaders and participants. Special thanks to Gavin Kajikawa, Pastor of Evangelism Ministries, Lighthouse Community Church, Torrance, CA, for his permission to use and adapt portions of their *Crazy Love* Study Guide, published in 2009 by Illuminate Publishing. Their study guide may be found at <http://www.lighthousesouthbay.org/mediafiles/crazy-love-study-guide.pdf>. Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*.

A Note to Participants: This study guide is for your personal use and is designed to help you get the most out of our church-wide study of *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan. We encourage you to read the assigned chapter and answer the questions under the “Before your small group meeting” section of the study guide in order to be prepared for the discussion at your group meeting. Also, please do not skip over the **Challenge for the Week** section. Give these a try. This is where we become “doers of the Word” and not “hearers” only. This is a lengthy study. There will be challenges along the way. Please do your best to keep up, attend the meetings, and encourage your fellow group members to do the same.

A Note to Group Leaders: You have the DVD study resource. The DVD segments are short, the longest is just over 9 minutes, most are 6 to 8 minutes. This study guide offers several questions to stimulate group discussion. Choose the ones you want and include others from your own reading. Please be sure to highlight the **Challenge for the Week** section and encourage your group members to do these. Give time for members to share about their experiences with these challenges each week. Also, please do not loan out the DVD unless you can be absolutely sure that you can get it back in time for the next meeting. If at any time you have any questions about the study, please contact Pastor Jim.



Crazy Love – Study Guide

Preface & Chapter 1: Stop Praying

WARNING, READ BEFORE USING

You've probably seen warning labels on various products and just skipped right over them. Well, please don't do that with this. Actually, we have three warnings we want you to be aware of before you start.

First: *Get ready to see your life and this world differently!* Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? Are you hungry for an authentic faith that addresses the problems of our world with tangible, even radical, solutions? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts — it's falling in love with God. And once you encounter His love, as Francis describes it, you will never be the same. When you have your eyes open to living sacrificially for Jesus, your life is going to change. When you open up your wallet, you'll begin thinking of how you can use it for God's glory. You'll read the newspaper and begin asking yourself if God is calling you to serve others in need. You'll grow in your love for Jesus doing everyday things! You'll see this world as a place to serve God and others, not yourself. You will really grow in your knowledge of Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Second: *Don't compare!* Fight the urge to compare yourself with others. God is going to do a good work in each of our lives. Anyone who is open to Christ will grow, but some of us will need to grow in different areas. God desires to do a great work in our lives during this study, so Satan will do his best to keep this from happening. One of his tactics is to discourage you by whispering in your ear, "Hey, look at so and so, she is doing so much for the Lord, what are you doing . . . you'll never be like her . . . why try . . . just be happy with what you have . . . hey, don't think about what you're learning, by the way your favorite TV show is on . . ." God is going to use all of us, but don't compare yourself with another because it will lead you to being discouraged or to feeling prideful. So, don't compare!

Third: *You are beginning a challenging adventure!* When we follow Jesus, He is going to lead our lives down paths we never expected. He is going to teach us things we never knew about ourselves or others. Like any adventure, there will be some challenging times ahead, some unexpected events, and there may even be a time when you'll just want to give up. But be assured, there will also be unimaginable vistas ahead, there will be growth as a community, and there will be the reward of growing more deeply and intimately acquainted with Jesus. So, don't give up. Pray for and encourage one another and press on!



Ready to Start the Adventure?

Before your small group meeting:

If you have access to the internet go to www.crazylovebook.com, watch the introductory video and then click on Videos (upper left), and watch the introduction to Chapter 1.

Read the Preface and Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

1. Write down what you believe is the main point of Chapter 1.
2. Look up the following verses and write down what each verse tells us about who God is.
 - a. 1 Peter 1:14-16 --
 - b. Psalm 102:12, 27 --
 - c. Hebrews 4:13 --
 - d. Daniel 4:35 --
 - e. Proverbs 8:13 --
 - f. Revelation 4:11 --
3. Read A. W. Tozer's quote on page 30. What is the purpose of humans on this earth (and in heaven)? When you look at the characteristics of God in question 2 above, how should that enhance your purpose in life?
- 4., Go to www.crazylovebook.com and watch the videos *Awe Factor* and *Just Stop and Think*. Write down your thoughts about the beauty and majesty of God and His creation.

At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 1 with your small group. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Read Revelation 4 and Isaiah 6:1-7. Imagine you're in the throne room. Put in your own words what you see, hear, feel, taste and/or smell.
2. What do you think would come out of your mouth the moment you saw God? What would be the first words you would say?



3. How was your relationship with God and your prayer life different this week? If it wasn't different enough, how would you like to see it changed?
4. Describe a time when you were awe-struck by God's glory.
5. Chan states, "There is an epidemic of spiritual amnesia going around, and none of us is immune. No matter how many fascinating details we learn about God's creation, no matter how many pictures we see of His galaxies, and no matter how many sunsets we watch, we still forget." (29) Why do we forget?

Challenge for the Week:

Pick one day this week and ask God to show you an aspect of who He is. Think of one of the attributes of God given to us in Scripture. Then, throughout the day, keep your eyes and ears open to how He is revealing Himself in this particular way. For example, God is Creator. So, ask Him to show you how He is Creator. Write down the attribute you have chosen and what God showed you. Be ready to share this with your group at your next meeting.

Commit to praying for the members of your small group this week and throughout this study. You may ask for specific prayer requests or pray as the Spirit leads you.



Holy, Holy, Holy

Words: Reginald Heber, 1826. Heber wrote this hymn for Trinity Sunday while he was Vicar of Hodnet, Shropshire, England.

Music: Nicaea, John B. Dykes, in *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

In The Presence

Words and music by Mark Altrogge, 1988 Integrity's Praise! Music/People of Destiny Int. (BMI)

In the presence of Your infinite might
I'm so small and frail and weak.
When I see your power and wisdom, Lord,
I have no words left to speak.

In the presence of a holy God
There's new meaning now to grace.
You took all my sins upon Yourself,
I can only stand amazed.

Chorus:

And I cry holy, holy, holy God
How awesome is Your name.
Holy, holy, holy God
How majestic is Your reign!
And I am changed
In the presence of a holy God.

In the power of Your glory.
All my crowns lie in the dust.
You are righteous in Your judgments, Lord,
You are faithful, true and just.



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Chapter 2: You Might not Finish This Chapter

Life Is Just A Vapor

On page 39 Francis states rather matter-of-factly, “On the average day, we live caught up in ourselves. On the average day, we don’t consider God very much. On the average day, we forget that our life truly is a vapor.” His point is that we need to remember that our lives are ultimately not in our control, they are in God’s. If we can keep that in mind we will be more likely to live for Him rather than for ourselves.

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 2.

Read Chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. Read James 4:13-17
 - a. Who is speaking in verse 13?
 - b. What important piece is missing from this business proposal in verse 13?
 - c. James responds in verse 14 by speaking about life. What is our life like?
 - d. In verse 15, what must be included into our plans?
 - e. In verses 16 & 17, what are the two sins James addresses?
3. What is *worry* and *stress*? Why are these two sinful? (See page 42)

At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 2. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Think about some people in your life who have died abruptly. What were some of their achievements in life and what were their regrets?



2. If today was the day you died, what would you regret and why? What can you change about your life today to avoid these regrets?
3. When Francis talks about being alone with God, how do you respond to those words? Can you relate? Do you walk with God, intimately and regularly? Or are your experiences with God usually mediated by something or someone (books, sermons, pastor's voice, fellowship, etc.)?
4. Name one person in your life who lives as if each day is his or her last. What is this person's effect on people around him or her? Does living that way make him or her seem different? Why?
5. Francis writes, "The point of your life is to point to Him. Whatever you are doing, God wants to be glorified, because this whole thing is His. It is His movie, His world, His gift." (44-45) What are you doing right now to point to Him? What part are you playing in His movie? What gift has He given you that He wants you to use for His glory?

Challenge for the Week:

Commit to memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whatever you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Make a conscious effort to live with this verse in mind this week. Be ready to share with your group at your next meeting how this verse changed your routine this week.

Re-read "SINCE I HAVE MY LIFE BEFORE ME" on page 48 of your book. Write your own statement.

Be Unto Your Name

Lynn DeSahzo and Gary Sadler

Verse 1

We are a moment, You are forever
Lord of the Ages, God before time.
We are a vapor, You are eternal
God everlasting, reigning on high.

Verse 2

We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, Mighty to save.
You are the love song we'll sing forever
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

Chorus

Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain.
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.



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Chapter 3: Crazy Love

Crazy Love Logo

Take a look at the cover of your book, specifically at the two arrows pointed in different directions. No doubt, you've noticed these arrows throughout the pages of the book as well. Any thoughts of what the *Crazy Love* logo means?

They represent the relationship that God has with a child of His. God shows His love to His child through the sending of His Son to this earth to live, die, and be resurrected. When a child of God receives the love found in Jesus, he or she now lives a life that is lived solely to point to God's glory.

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 3.

Read Chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?

2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Don't rush. Take your time to soak in all the tremendous truths found in these verses.
 - a. In verses 1-3 Paul paints a dramatic picture of the life a person lives when he or she does not know Jesus Christ. Write down a few words or phrases that describe humans before coming to Him.

 - b. Write down the words in verses 4-7 that describe God. Now underline the title "Christ" in these four verses. Take a few minutes to praise Jesus for what He has given you as a result of giving up His life.

 - c. Fill in the blanks in the following "personalized" version of verses 8-10:
"For it is by _____ I have been saved, through _____ -- and this not from myself, it is the _____ of God – not by _____, so that I can boast. For I am God's _____, created in Christ Jesus to do good _____, which God prepared in advance for _____ to do."

3. Pick one word or short phrase to describe your desired relationship with your heavenly Father. (See page 57)



At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 3. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Do you remember when you “got it”? When you first realized you loved God with all your heart, soul, and mind?
2. How can we as a group “remember the cross” throughout the week?
3. Francis says, “Most of us, to some degree, have a difficult time understanding, believing, or accepting God’s absolute and unlimited love for us.” (53-54) Why is this so?
4. Are you in love with God or just His stuff or just what benefits you?
5. What are your thoughts about the *Crazy Love* logo? What do the arrows mean to you?

Challenge for the Week:

Commit to memorizing Ephesians 2:4-5. Write it on a post-it note, an index card, and on a piece of paper. Put one on your mirror in your bathroom, one on your car dashboard, and one next to your computer monitor or other place you will see it frequently.

How amazing to think that all of us will be meditating on these two verses this week. As we do so, commit to contacting someone in your small group about God’s great love for them. Remind them by sending an email, a text, a phone call, or a card.

Consider using the one word or short phrase you picked to describe your desired relationship with your heavenly Father as a prayer each day in the week ahead. Repeat it throughout the day as the Holy Spirit prompts you.



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Chapter 4: Profile of the Lukewarm

Don't Assume You Are Good Soil

On page 179 of your book, there is a conversation with Francis. The first question asks him to tell us about the title *Crazy Love*. He responds with the following:

The idea of *Crazy Love* has to do with our relationship with God. All of my life I've heard people say, "God loves you." It's probably the most insane statement you could make to say that the eternal Creator of this universe is in love with me. There is a response that ought to take place in believers, a crazy reaction to that love. Do you really understand what God has done for you? If so, why is your response so lukewarm?

Hopefully the first three chapters have awakened our awe of how great and grand our God is! If we have an accurate picture of God, then it will help us have an accurate picture of who we are. Chapters 4 through 10 will now be focused on examining yourself. At times this will not be easy, but remember God's grace. It is His grace that will allow us to be transformed. Also remember that you are on an adventure of seeing how God is going to use your changed and "on fire" life!

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 4.

Read Chapter 4 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. Beginning with page 68 there are 18 descriptions of LUKEWARM PEOPLE. Choose six of them – the ones that make you say "ouch" or make you squirm – and summarize what a lukewarm person looks like or lives like. Then write down one verse and summarize what the verse is saying to you.

#1 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:

#2 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:



#3 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:

#4 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:

#5 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:

#6 – Lukewarm people . . .

Verse:

At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 4. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Read and discuss several of the verses that group members picked in the LUKEWARM PEOPLE exercise. Ask, “What make you say “ouch”?” “What made you squirm?”
2. What changes can you make in your areas of lukewarmness?
3. What’s the danger of assuming you are “good soil”?
4. Turn to page 66 and read Matthew 13:44 and the next two paragraphs. How much would you pay for the field? What does that mean?
5. On page 68 Francis says, “the American church is a difficult place to fit in if you want to live out New Testament Christianity.” Do you agree with this? Is this true of Messiah?



Challenge for the Week:

Pick one of the lukewarm characteristics to focus on this week. Spend 15-20 minutes getting to the heart of this lukewarm characteristic.

1. Identify the main sin of this lukewarm characteristic.
2. Find verses that combat this lukewarm characteristic. You can look in a study Bible, a concordance, or by asking one of your pastors or fellow group members.
3. Pray, asking God to help you to battle this sin.
4. Think of one or two tangible things you can do this week to help you fight against this lukewarm characteristic. It may mean fasting one meal, getting up early one morning to pray, getting home early to spend an afternoon walking outside and talking with you spouse or child or friend about God. Be creative in your application.



The Love of God

Words and music by Frederick Martin Lehman, 1917

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

Chorus:

O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints' and angels' song.

When years of time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men, who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above,
Would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.

The unusual third stanza of the hymn was a small part of an ancient lengthy poem composed in 1096 by a Jewish songwriter, Rabbi Mayer, in Worms, Germany. The poem, entitled "Hadamut," was written in the Arabic language. The lines were found one day in revised form on the walls of a patient's room in an insane asylum after the patient's death. The opinion has since been that the unknown patient, during times of sanity, adapted from the Jewish poem what is now the third verse of "The Love of God."



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Chapter 5: Serving Leftovers to a Holy God

Search Me, O God

Most of us don't like to be examined because it exposes us, but that is what chapters 4 through 10 are intended to do. They are designed to expose who we really are and what we really believe. Maybe some of you got a taste of this as you examined your heart in the last chapter. The purpose of chapter 4 was to "Examine your heart for Christ." The purpose of chapter 5 is to "Examine your life as a disciple."

Jesus taught that His disciples live for Him and His kingdom. Disciples understand that this life is only temporary as are the things in it. Disciples follow and obey God's Word, rather than their desires and what the world says. Disciples believe that glorifying God is their ultimate goal.

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 5.

Read Chapter 5 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. Look up the following verses in your Bible and write out in your own words what the author is teaching:
 - a. James 2:19 –
 - b. 1 John 2:3-4 –
 - c. Matthew 16:24-25 –
 - d. Luke 14:33 –
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13, substituting your name, or "I", for *love* every time it appears, i.e. I am patient, I am kind, etc. As Dr. Phil would ask, "So, how does that make you feel?"



At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 5. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Being as honest as you can, discuss with the group any doubts you had with your salvation or your relationship with God after reading this chapter. Where did this chapter leave you?
2. Discuss the solution to living a “lukewarm life.”
3. “God wants our best, deserves our best, and demands our best.” During the days of Malachi, the priests were not offering God their best; rather, they were offering their leftovers. Francis writes, “The priests of Malachi’s day thought their sacrifices were sufficient. They had spotless animals but chose to keep those for themselves and give their less desirable animals to God. They assumed God was pleased because they had sacrifices something.” (91) What are some things that Christians give to God as leftovers? Are you offering God leftovers?
4. Have you every thought that there was a difference between the “spiritual ones” – missionaries, pastors, small group leaders, etc. – and “regular” Christians? What are the dangers of thinking this way?
5. There are many reasons we have for not following Jesus. One of the more common ones is fear, although we rarely admit it. What is one thing that Jesus is asking you to do? One thing you know He’s asking of you, but you’re afraid of? What is the worst that could happen if you followed Him in that way? What’s the best?

Challenge for the Week:

Writer Annie Dillard says, “How we spend our day is, of course, how we spend our lives.” Pick a day from last week. Beginning with the moment you awoke, go back through the day and write down everything you can remember regarding how you “spent” the day. We don’t save time: we just spend it. Don’t embellish or fudge the truth; just write down your day. Is that “day” reflective of how you’re spending your life? Don’t answer too quickly.

Now pick a day that is coming up and try and live that day giving your best first to God. Here are some examples:

- ❖ Giving the beginning of your day to be with the Lord in His Word (yes, even before opening the sports section of the newspaper or the latest magazine).
- ❖ Giving God the first few minutes of each new hour to quickly pray with Him (set a timer).
- ❖ Think about how you can encourage someone during the day.



- ❖ Spend your commute listening to worship music.
- ❖ Tell someone about what God is teaching you.
- ❖ Eat with a grateful heart to God.
- ❖ Pray for a loved one.
- ❖ Use your sanctified imagination to live for God!

Before going to bed ask the Lord, “Did I fulfill what you asked of me today?” Take a moment and reflect on where you saw God at work in your life today.

Lord, I Give You My Heart
Hillsong Music

This is my desire
To honor You
Lord with all my heart
I worship You
All I have within me
I give You praise
All that I adore is in You

Lord, I give You my heart
I give You my soul
I live for You alone
Every Breath I take
Every moment I'm awake
Lord, have Your way in me



Take My Life

Words and music by Frances R. Havergal, 1874

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.



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Chapter 6: When You're in Love

Life Change through Love Exchange

Do you really love Jesus more than anyone and anything else in this world? Don't answer that too quickly. Don't say what you know you're supposed to say. Say what's true. Francis writes, "God wants to change us; He died so that we could change." (103) But do you *really* want to change?

Our hope is that you will experience God's love and that you will be transformed by it so that you will experience what Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full."

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 6.

Read Chapter 6 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. Turn in your Bible to 1 John 4:7-21. Read these verses and underline or highlight the words *love* or *loved*.
 - a. According to verse 7 where does love come from?
 - b. According to verses 9-10 how did God show His love for us?
 - c. According to verse 12 what happens when we love one another?
 - d. According to verse 15 what must we do?
 - e. According to verse 18 what's the relationship between love and fear?
 - f. According to verse 19 why do we love?
 - g. According to verses 20-21 who are we to love?
3. Define the word *love* from a Christian perspective. How is God's definition different from the world's definition of *love*?



At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 6. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Intimacy vs. Reverence: which do you struggle with in your relationship with God?
2. What kind of baggage do you carry around with you in your life? What hinders you from receiving God's love and from loving others?
3. Turn to page 100 in your book and re-read John Piper's quote from *God is the Gospel*. How would you answer the question Piper poses? Why?
4. Is it hard for you to say, "I love you Jesus"? Why or why not?
5. Francis says, "There is nothing better than giving up everything and stepping into a passionate love relationship with God." Point to something in your life that indicates you believe those words. If there's nothing to point to, do you have the courage to be honest with God and your friends about it?

Challenge for the Week:

Turn to page 109 in your book and re-read the second paragraph which includes the quotation from playwright George Bernard Shaw. Commit to living on purpose this week. Is there someone to whom you can show God's love? Is there someone you need to forgive or ask to forgive you? Is there a secret act of kindness you can do for someone in need? Also, try to go through the week without complaining about anything.

Turn to page 110 and re-read the section on "SomeOne I Can Be Real With." Write out your own prayer and pray it aloud every day this week. Make note of the changes this brings about in you and how you relate to God and to others this week.



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Chapter 7: Your Best Life . . . Later

The Question

What are you doing right now that requires faith? That question stopped Francis in his tracks. What effect does it have on you? Have we grown secure in our prosperity? Do we really prefer to play it safe rather than risk doing something others would consider “crazy” for God? When we hear of missionaries going to far away places to tell others of God’s love are we glad it’s them and not us?

Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.” Are we pleasing God?

Let us live lives of faith now!

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 7.

Read Chapter 7 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?

2. Turn in your Bible to Hebrews 11 and read verses 7-16. There are three people who are commended for their faith in these verses. Write down what they had to do in faith. Also, write down what may have kept them from acting in faith.
 - a. Noah (v. 7):

 - b. Abraham (vv. 8-10):

 - c. Sarah (vv. 11-12):

 - d. According to verses 13 and 14, why were these three able to do what they were asked to do?

3. Define the word *faith* from a Christian perspective. How is God’s definition different from the world’s definition of *faith*? (Hint: Look up Hebrews 11:1)



At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 7. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Rather than talking about the sinfulness of owning and buying things, talk about the silliness of the things you own in light of eternal rewards. What are the top five things you own and why are they special?
2. What keeps you from thinking about the needs of your extended family? Friends? Neighbors? The Poor? The Homeless?
3. What keeps you from living a life of faith?
4. What are you doing right now that requires faith? It may help to break this question in half. First, answer: What am I doing right now? Then, look at those “right now” things and ask if any of them requires faith.
5. On page 118 of your book Francis asks, “How would my life change if I actually thought of each person I came into contact with as Christ – the person driving painfully slow in front of me, the checker at the grocery store who seems more interested in chatting than ringing up my items, the member of my own family with whom I can’t seem to have a conversation and not get annoyed?” How would you answer that question?

Challenge for the Week:

What of your “silly things” can you give away to someone who is in need? Give it away. No excuses, give something away that you own.

This week make the effort to see each person with whom you come in contact as Christ. Pray for them. Speak to them. Help them if they are in need.

How might God be asking you to take a “step of faith” and move out of your complacency and deeper into His “Crazy Love” in these areas of your life:

- In your entertainment
- Your use of your time
- The way you spend your money
- The way you talk
- The way you do your job
- The way you treat others
- The way you worship



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Chapter 8: Profile of the Obsessed

“All Units, Be on the Look Out for . . .”

If you’ve ever watched a TV cop show you’ve probably heard the line, “All units, be on the look out for . . .” or something similar. The dispatcher usually continues with a profile of a suspect or a vehicle. How would your close friends and family members describe you if they had to give a profile of you? Not a physical profile, but a life profile.

How would they answer these questions about your life?

- ✓ If _____ was given \$5,000 what would he/she do with it?
- ✓ Does _____ have vitality and joy in living his/her life?
- ✓ What are _____’s dreams and hopes for his/her life?
- ✓ Where is most of _____’s time spent?
- ✓ Can you see a difference in the way _____ lives his/her life in comparison to the world?

Chapter 8 gives us a profile of thirteen characteristics of a person obsessed with living for Jesus and for heaven. Don’t get discouraged as you read this chapter. Instead, focus on how God is in the process of transforming you. May all thirteen characteristics be part of your profile one day, but, for now, remember that you are God’s workmanship and He’s not finished with you yet. Hallelujah!

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 8.

Read Chapter 8 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?

2. Beginning on page 130 there are 13 profiles of the obsessed. Choose six of them, the ones that hit home, the ones that make you say, “I wish that described me.” Summarize what an obsessed disciple looks like or lives like, then write down one verse and summarize what the verse is saying.

#1 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:



#2 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:

#3 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:

#4 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:

#5 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:

#6 – Obsessed people . . .

Verse:

3. Turn to Philippians 1:6 in your Bible and fill in the blanks of this personalized version: I am _____ of this, that He who began a _____ in me will carry it on to _____ until the day of _____.

At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 8. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Read Acts 2:37-47 and discuss why we can or can't live like they did in the days of the early church. What are some of the things they did that appeals to you?
2. Define *obsessed*. Are you obsessed with the world or obsessed with Christ? How can you tell? How can others tell?
3. Brainstorm a list of the ways in which we, as believers in Christ, live lives dictated by culture and tradition instead of the Bible. From the silly to the super-serious, come up with as many as you can.
4. Share with one another the profile characteristics of the obsessed that you would really like to grow in. What commitments can you affirm to one another tonight?



Challenge for the Week:

In our own power we cannot be obsessed with Christ, but we can ask God to create within us a passion for Him each new day. Ask God to set you free from your obsession with the world and cultivate within you an all consuming passion for Him.

Look at the list of profiles you chose for question 2 above. Take time and ask God how He may grant you the grace to become one, or two, or three of those profiles. Write down what you will do to change your life in different areas so that your love for Jesus will become a “pure and holy passion, a magnificent obsession.” Be creative in your applications, this is the adventurous part!

Profile #1:

Motivation: God wants me to be _____ (profile) because . . .

Application: God wants me to . . .

Therefore, with God’s help, this week I will . . .

Profile #2:

Motivation: God wants me to be _____ (profile) because . . .

Application: God wants me to . . .

Therefore, with God’s help, this week I will . . .

Profile #3:

Motivation: God wants me to be _____ (profile) because . . .

Application: God wants me to . . .

Therefore, with God’s help, this week I will . . .



When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Words by Isaac Watts, music by Lowell Mason

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

One Pure and Holy Passion

Words and music by Mark Altrogge

Give me one pure and holy passion.
Give me one magnificent obsession.
Give me one glorious ambition for my life:
To know and follow hard after You.

To know and follow hard after You.
To grow as your disciple in the truth.
This world is empty, pale and poor,
Compared to knowing You, my Lord.
Lead me on and I will run after You.
Lead me on and I will run after You.



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Chapter 9: Who Really Lives That Way?

Men and Women Saved by Grace and Who Live by Grace

Chapter 9 contains stories of men and women who lived extraordinary lives. Some of these individuals were uniquely gifted, while others were quite ordinary, but the one common thread with all of them was the gift of God's grace. When the souls of these men and women encountered God's saving grace they began to live life anew. No longer were they held captive by their sinful desires and trivial pursuits, but they experienced the freedom to live and do as God had created them. They were able to see others in need and were willing to do something about it.

As you read and re-read these stories, don't think that these were *special* people who were different than you. Rather, see that in many ways they were very similar to you. They were sinners who needed a Savior and through the grace of God their souls were saved. The results were men and women who lived with focus to obey the One who saved them and were willing to step out in faith to do great things through God's grace each day. The same God they worshiped and trusted in is the same God who will work through you.

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 9.

Read Chapter 9 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. In your opinion, what were the most "amazing" testimony and the most "surprising" testimony from Chapter 9? Why?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33. What can we learn about Paul's obedience to Christ from his life?



At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 9. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Share with one another the testimonies that you found most amazing and most surprising.
2. As a Christian, whom do you look up to and why?
3. What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind? What do you want to be known for?
4. Francis concludes this chapter with a testimony about Cornerstone Community Church (163). What could we write about Church of the Messiah?

Challenge for the Week:

Obey God's command to encourage each other in the faith. Contact someone in your group this week and encourage them in their faith.

Do something "risky" for God this week.

We can learn much from godly men and women who have journeyed on the path of faith before us. Do a little research on the internet, or go to the library and read a book on one of the following:

- Jonathan Edwards
- John Bunyan
- Adoniram Judson
- George Mueller
- Charles Spurgeon
- Martin Luther
- John Newton
- William Cowper
- Fanny Crosby
- Suzanna Wesley
- Catherine of Siena
- Amiee Semple McPherson
- Lottie Moon



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Chapter 10: The Crux of the Matter

Comfort Zone

We now enter the last chapter of *Crazy Love*. What comes to mind when you look back over the book and our study together? Francis writes, “My hope and prayer is that you finish this book with hope, believing that part of your responsibility in the body of Christ is to help set the pace for the church by listening and obeying and *living* Christ.” (172) It is exciting to know that God works through individuals and through His Church collectively.

As we have read in the previous nine chapters, learning, obeying, and living in Christ will inevitably lead us outside of our comfort zones. Often our human nature wants what is easy, what is comfortable, what is secure in our minds, and what is popular. In contrast, God’s way is counter-cultural and challenging to our sinful human nature.

Francis says, “I’ve made it a commitment to consistently put myself in situations that scare me and require God to come through.” (169) Have you put yourself in such a situation lately? If so, did your faith and trust in God grow?

We hope that this journey has awakened your faith and helped your eyes to see that there is so much more to the Christian life than just going to church on Sunday, giving a check, and checking off a Christian “To Do” list. God wants to use our lives to spread His kingdom so that He will gain the glory! May you continue this adventure of leaving your comfort zone and living in the faith zone of Jesus Christ!

Before your small group meeting:

Go to www.crazylovebook.com, click on Videos, and watch the introduction to Chapter 10.

Read Chapter 10 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main point of this chapter?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
 - a. From verses 1-2, what did Paul proclaim to the Corinthians?
 - b. From verses 3-4, what was Paul’s life like when he visited and shared with the believers in the city of Corinth?



c. From verses 4-5, what do we need to remember when serving God?

3. On page 168 Francis writes, “A friend of mine once said that Christians are like manure: spread them out and they help everything grow better, but keep them in one big pile and they stink horribly.” And then he asks several questions: “Which are you? The kind that reeks, around which people walk a wide swath? Or the kind that trusts God enough to let Him spread you out – whether that means going outside your normal group of Christian friends, increasing your material giving, or using your time to serve others?” How do you answer those questions?

At your small group meeting:

Watch the DVD video for Chapter 10. Your leader will choose several of the following questions for discussion:

1. Francis says, “We each need to discover for ourselves how to live *this day* in faithful surrender to God as we “continue to work our [our] salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12) (165) During the course of this study have you discovered how to do that? What changes have you made? What changes has God made in you?
2. Francis also asks, “Have you ever said, “I was made for this moment”? Do you believe you were crafted for specific good works, things that God knew before you even existed? Or do you compare your life to others and lament what you have been given?” (167) How do you answer these questions?
3. Read Hebrews 10:23-25. Has your life made a positive impact upon the Messiah church family or has it had a negative one, or even a neutral one? What are some ways you can begin or in other cases continue to be a positive impact upon the Messiah church family? What are some tangible ways we can spur one another on?
4. What is it you have to do before your life is over?
5. Read Romans 14:10-12. If the Lord took you home tonight, would you be able to say that you did not waste your life, but lived it for God’s kingdom?

Challenge for the Week:

Accept Francis’ challenge: Try for a whole day to be conscious of heaven. Realize that so much is going on outside of this dimension and our existence. God and His angels are watching, even now. (171)



Fast from something this week. This may mean that you fast for one meal, you fast from shopping online, you fast from watching TV, you fast from working out, you fast from talking for a period of time each day. Use that time to spend with the Lord in prayer asking Him what He wants you to do as a result of this study. Is there a change in your lifestyle, a change in your spending habits, a change in your view of sin, a change in your heart attitudes, or a change in how you see and love God?

Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BbH0IWZL05s> and listen to *I Refuse* by Josh Wilson

Sometimes I, I just want to close my eyes
And act like everyone's alright when I know they're not.
This world needs God but it's easier to stand and watch.
I could say a prayer and just move on like nothing's wrong. But I refuse.

'Cause I don't want to live like I don't care.
I don't want to say another empty prayer.
Oh, I refuse to sit around and wait for someone else
To do what God has called me to do myself.
Oh, I could choose not to move but I refuse.

I can hear the least of these crying out so desperately,
And I know we are the hands and feet of you, oh God.
So, if you say move, then it's time for me to follow through,
And do what I was made to do. Show them who you are.

'Cause I don't want to live like I don't care.
I don't want to say another empty prayer.
Oh, I refuse to sit around and wait for someone else
To do what God has called me to do myself.
Oh, I could choose not to move but I refuse

To stand and watch the weary and lost cry out for help.
I refuse to turn my back and try and act like all is well.
I refuse to stay unchanged, to wait another day,
To die to myself. I refuse to make one more excuse.

'Cause I don't want to live like I don't care.
I don't want to say another empty prayer.
Oh, I refuse to sit around and wait for someone else
To do what God has called me to do myself.
Oh, I could choose not to move but I refuse.

Spend time with the Lord thanking Him that He has chosen you for salvation and to be used for His glory and His kingdom. Then, as Francis exhorts us, “live the life with your friends, your family, parents, spouse, children, neighbors, enemies, and strangers that He has created and empowered you through the Holy Spirit to live.” (174)