

Crazy Love

DVD family & group
study guide

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The purpose of this additional Family/Group Study Guide is to support the written ideas and topics given throughout *Crazy Love* and will not seek to override the author's position. Please use this guide as a means to develop a warm and loving atmosphere of inspiration, honesty, and discipleship. Allow the Holy Spirit to use your group study to 'touch' each life and heart permanently.

*Feel free to add or adjust the lessons below to meet the needs of your group. This lesson should not be followed exactly if another appropriate method exists.

REMEMBER: The purpose is to glorify the Lord and allow each member of your group to be drawn closer to Him.

The questions are geared to be open-ended in order to draw additional communication (and learning) among the group. It is important that there is not one main speaker, but moderators to guide the discussion along, add key insights, and keep the topic focused on the task at hand. At some point, it may be good to rotate moderators.

Please understand that it is OK to stray from the given topic as long as it is productive – stay in the Spirit! There may be times when the discussion moves to an off-topic, but you'll find that the environment and needs of the group will allow for some to freely share other concerns on their mind and heart (they may be working out their salvation). The Lord will guide you in the way you should go – so remain prayerful. It may be necessary to put the study guide away for a time (or even the remainder of the study) to minister to the group in 'their' specific need(s).

Lastly, don't be concerned if there are not a lot of responses. *Crazy Love* is one of 'those books' that will draw conviction and correction, which may not bring a lot of communication upfront (or throughout). Don't allow your personal desire for external responses to sway the internal convictions being made before the Lord.

May *Crazy Love* and allow its message saturate your hearts with love for your Father in heaven.



FORMAT

This free study guide was prepared with both small and large groups in mind. It is my personal opinion that smaller groups provides greater intimacy, however we should never discount what the Lord can do at any time, in any setting.

In both the small and large groups, the intention is to view the corresponding video prior to answering any questions in this guide. However, there are times when it is better to answer certain questions in this guide before watching the video. Where this is applicable, the respective lessons are properly identified. Additionally, in larger settings, it is intended to divide into smaller groups to answer the corresponding lesson questions then returning to the group to provide a survey of responses.

*This is only one example and can be formatted as the Lord and your circumstances require.



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This study guide does not represent the thoughts or intents of Francis Chan or David C. Cook Publishing. It is used solely as a supplement and support to their published works of *Crazy Love* within small groups and the local church.

God bless,
Hamp Lee III



INTRODUCTION

NOTE: THIS IS THE FIRST LESSON IN A SERIES OF THREE INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSIONS FOR A CHURCH BIBLE STUDY OR OTHER LARGE GROUP. BECAUSE OF THE OPENNESS OF THESE QUESTIONS, SOME LARGE GROUPS MAY NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE SPEAKING SO FRANKLY. HELP THEM ALONG, BE PATIENT/UNDERSTANDING, AND SHARE FROM YOUR HEART.

****The moderator should start with how they were first introduced to *Crazy Love* and how it has impacted their life before the Lord. After this description, the moderator can provide an overview for the study (structure, content, purpose) and read the summary on the back of the book. When complete, transition to the 'Just Stop and Think' video from the *Crazy Love* website.**

1. What were your initial thoughts to the video, Just Stop and Think?
2. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How does this statement conflict or agree with what we see within you, other believers, and churches today?
3. Why do we find people comparing themselves with other Christians as opposed to God's commands and instructions? What is the problem with such thinking?
4. Some people discover that just as they didn't want to face the Lord's wrath before believing in Him, they may now serve Him the same way...wanting to do just enough not to face His wrath.

Francis stated that what matters is what God thinks about you. Why would this be a hard concept to grasp for believers today?

REMEMBER: God does not grade on a curve.

5. Read Philippians 2:5-8. Take a moment to think about all that God has done to save you. Francis talked about his feelings if he saw his child being crucified for wicked, sinful people. How would you feel seeing your child on the cross, and having to forsake your own child because of sin (Matthew 27:46)? Read Ezekiel 33:11 and John 3:16 as well.

6. In spite of all you have done against God's commands and will, He wants to have an intimate relationship with you. He is deeply (and extremely) concerned about your eternal existence. The question I have for you today...is if you want the same? Are you concerned about your own eternal existence or just making sure the people around you believe you do?

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FOREWORD

NOTE: THIS IS THE SECOND LESSON IN A SERIES OF THREE INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSIONS FOR A CHURCH BIBLE STUDY OR OTHER LARGE GROUP.

****Show the video entitled, 'Balance Beam' by Francis Chan. A clip can be found on YouTube and lasts less than four minutes.**

1. What were your initial reactions to the Balance Beam video?
2. What is the craziest nickname you ever heard? Please provide a quick story behind the nickname.
3. Read Acts 11:19-26. How did the disciples earn the nickname of 'Christian?'
4. In what ways is the term 'Christian' different today than what we find in Acts 11:19-26?

THOUGHT: You have no control over what someone names you, but your words and actions help them decide.

5. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8 and pray for another.



PREFACE

NOTE: THIS IS THE THIRD LESSON IN A SERIES OF THREE INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSIONS FOR A CHURCH BIBLE STUDY OR OTHER LARGE GROUP.

****Show the video entitled, 'Introduction' by Francis Chan on his www.crazylovebook.com website. You may also view the video on YouTube.**

1. How (if ever) have you been taught or led to believe reading the Bible, attending church, and avoiding “big” sins was an accurate view of Christianity and following Jesus? (p. 19)

2. How (if ever) have you felt like you are missing out on something or there is more to living for God than what you have?

3. Why would you believe (or not believe) the crux of Christianity is an inaccurate view of God? (p. 22, third paragraph)

4. Read pages 21-23 together. What is your truest hope in reading *Crazy Love*?

5. Francis states that change, as we all know, is uncomfortable. Why is change, even in our best interests, hard for us to address and face in our own lives?



CHAPTER TWO: **YOU MIGHT NOT FINISH THIS CHAPTER**

AFTER ANSWERING THE DVD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

As we think about our loved ones and even our own regrets, let's consider why we were created.

1. Think of something you (or someone you know) created or accomplished that was a great achievement. How did you (they) feel about the achievement?

2. Read Genesis 1:26-31, John 3:16, and Ephesians 2:10. Reflect on how God feels about the people He created.

3. Consider your purpose in being created for good works. What types of works can you do that are good and pleasing to God?

Throughout this short discussion, you've identified things that you would regret not doing and some things you believe are good and pleasing to God. Read 2 Timothy 4:7-8. At the end of Paul's life (2 Timothy was his last letter), he was able to testify that he fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He was able to face the end of his life without any regrets. In your closing remarks and prayer, make a personal decision to overcome your regrets and allow them to become a testimony of God's love and grace.

REMEMBER: Today is not just another day...this can be the day you actually see Jesus.



CHAPTER THREE: **CRAZY LOVE**

****WATCH THE DVD VIDEO AFTER ANSWERING THE FIRST THREE QUESTIONS****

1. Provide one word that describes the relationship you have with your dad?
2. Provide one word that describes your relationship with God?
3. Are you pleased with the description of your relationship with God? If not, what one word would you like your relationship to be described as?
4. When we consider someone we love, we think of them often – and are often consumed with the thought of them. So many things we see throughout the day would remind us of them: a song, perfume or cologne, clothing, or a certain style of car. In our relationship with God, we build our love for Him by thinking of Him often: His attributes, love, compassion, forgiveness, and seeing His hand at work all around us. Read Numbers 15:37-40, Philippians 4:8, and Psalm 119:9-16. In what specific ways can you spend your days thinking of God?

Because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything.

~ Francis Chan



CHAPTER FOUR: **PROFILE OF THE LUKEWARM**

AFTER ANSWERING THE DVD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. During the video, Francis talked about Matt, a missionary from Iraq who said, 'what we call sanctification...the believers in Iraq call a pre-requisite.' By receiving baptism, they were declaring that they were willing to lose everything to follow Jesus...and many of them did. What do you think about that?

2. Read Luke 14:25-33. What thoughts came to mind after hearing those verses?

3. Before you became a believer of Jesus, did you consider the cost of following Him (Luke 14:25-35)? If so, please share with your group. Were these verses ever shared with you before you placed your faith in Him?

4. Read Luke 9:57-62 and Matthew 19:16-30. Talk about the meaning of these verses. Take a moment to think about your relationship with Jesus and the decision you made to follow Him. Would you be willing...this very moment, to give up everything to follow Jesus? If you are not willing to give up everything to follow Him, consider your reasons, speak about them if you feel comfortable, and seek additional prayer and counseling.

The decision you choose to make has eternal implications for your life.



CHAPTER FIVE: **SERVING LEFTOVERS TO A HOLY GOD**

AFTER ANSWERING THE DVD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND THE QUESTIONS BELOW, PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER THAT THEIR FAITH IN GOD WOULD NOT FAIL AND THEY WOULD LOVE HIM MORE.

1. After reading this chapter, was your first response to love God more or do something to show your love for Him? What were some things you wanted to change right away?

2. We have learned in our society that we fix and correct things by 'doing.' Often, we act in the same manner with our relationship with God. How does Francis' statement of not doing more, but loving God more challenge what you have been taught or assumed you must do to gain God's favor?

3. In serving leftovers to a Holy God, we often see God from the perspective we grew up with, experienced, or learned in church. How have (or can) these perspectives affect our relationship with God if we do not compare them to biblical standards? (Read Colossians 2:8 and 2 Timothy 3:1-7 as a reference.)

4. Read Philippians 2:12-13. From where does our help come in wanting to love God more? What is your 'part?'



CHAPTER SIX: **WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE**

FOR THE FIRST TWO QUESTIONS BELOW, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AFTER ANSWERING THE CORRESPONDING DVD QUESTION...

1. In what ways have you struggled?
2. How has this baggage affected your relationship with God (in intimacy or reverence)?
3. In developing a relationship with God, does an intimate or reverent relationship blossom automatically? If not, what is your 'role' in the process? Read Psalm 42:1-2 and Psalm 63:8.
4. Read pages 104 (last sentence)-106. Take a moment to consider the psalms of joy and distress, cries to the Lord...from people like you and me. Discuss any apprehensions you may have with experiencing this type of intimacy with the Lord.
5. Read 'SomeOne I Can Be Real With' on pages 110-111. Allow these words to become a personal declaration within your life. (Read it in the privacy of your home as well.) Choose one of the psalms (scriptures) you read on 105-106 and meditate on it throughout the week. Allow the psalm to saturate your heart...really think about what it is saying and the emotions being expressed. Write any emotions and/or experiences you have throughout the week to share with your group.



CHAPTER SEVEN: **YOUR BEST LIFE ... LATER**

AFTER ANSWERING THE DVD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. In our society, we have been conditioned to go for the American 'dream': big house, fancy cars, the corner office overlooking the city, and having millions of dollars – living with safety and security. How does this 'dream' relate to 1 John 2:15-17? How has the love of the world affected you and the church (at large)?

2. A person cannot serve both God and money at the same time. As Jesus states in Matthew 6:24 (ESV), '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.' Many people would be quick to say they love God, even though their actions throughout the week say otherwise. The person that loves money is not always the greedy 'miser' (i.e. Scrooge) that we often reference to...it can be people just like you and me – people that place a greater emphasis (at any social status) on money and the 'safety/security' it provides. How has the love of money (i.e. chasing the American 'dream') affected your ability to serve God?

3. Francis made an interesting statement, 'Something is wrong when our lives make sense to unbelievers.' In what ways do you believe authentic and radical living before God would not make sense to unbelievers?

4. Read Hebrews 11:1-16. Many of us place a large emphasis on enjoying the beauty, comforts, and sights of this world. However, having a mind on our heavenly dwelling is an intentional and all-consuming 'experience.' Express any difficulties you may have in focusing on your heavenly dwelling? How different do you think your life would be if you were to set your entire focus on your heavenly dwelling instead of your current one?



CHAPTER EIGHT: **PROFILE OF THE OBSESSED**

AFTER ANSWERING THE DVD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. In the video, Francis gave a description of the early believers and said based upon what they saw, it made sense for them to make the decisions and declarations they did. He also said it wouldn't have made sense for them to see and experience all they did to decide to get together once a week, have services (where one of them would preach), have really cool music, and go back to life as usual. How was his description different from what you have heard or considered about the early believers and the church?

2. Please have someone in your group share their closest biblical experience to what Francis described...not 'cultural church' experience (i.e. good worship service or event). Describe the circumstances and experiences you shared in your example.

3. Francis asked, 'why should 'culture' dictate how we should live?' However, for almost every one of us, our culture (even church culture) has dictated the way we live, work, and interact. How has our culture affected your ability to live biblically as Francis (and the bible) describes?

4. As Francis spoke about the ‘why not,’ the word TRUST may have been something that kept you from making a commitment to living biblically with your fellow believers. For many of us, trust is a prevalent concern. However, the early believers trusted one another as they committed to a united purpose...and from that trust and purpose, they shared in a common mission to the glory of God. If you were not willing to commit to one another to live biblically (and if you have not done so already), consider reasons why you (or the group) were unwilling. (There’s no need to mention names here.)

5. As Francis stated, ‘to live out biblical Christianity is very difficult in the American church’...but it is not impossible. It will take people who are obsessed with Jesus, willing to live counter-culture, and will hold one another in truth, trust, and accountability before the Lord. Throughout this chapter, Francis provides various declarations of **obsessed** people. Beginning with the definition at the start of the chapter, have each person in your group read one of the definitions/declarations of **obsessed** people and share any comments or convictions you may have.

6. When your group comes together (if in a large group). Read Jesus’ prayer in John 17. When reading, consider Jesus’ feelings and emotions as He prayed to His Father. Close your meeting in prayer.



CHAPTER TEN: **THE CRUX OF THE MATTER**

1. On page 169, Francis writes, 'Most of us use "I'm waiting for God to reveal His calling on my life as a means of avoiding action. Did you hear God calling you to sit in front of your television yesterday? Or to go on your last vacation? Or exercise this morning? Probably not, but you still did it. The point isn't that vacations or exercise are wrong, but that we are quick to rationalize our entertainment and priorities yet are slow to commit to serving God.' In what ways have you ever been slow to commit to serving God? If you could do whatever was in your heart to do for God and His people, what would it be?

Jesus did not say, "If you love me you will obey me when you feel called or good about doing so..." ~ Francis Chan

2. On page 172, Francis states that his '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.' How can you help set the pace in your home, church, and local community?

3. Read Romans 14:10-12 and Matthew 25:14-30. All of us will have to give an account of our lives on this earth. You have a choice in what your response will be. As Francis says on page 174, 'Get on your knees before our holy, loving God. And then 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.' May you be able to say at the end of your life:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

- 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV)

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