

# Preparing for LifeGroup

1. Prepare for each LifeGroup session by praying for:
  - A. Each group member
  - B. That God would make His Word (the Bible) clear to people in the group.
  - C. That God will help you as you lead
2. Personally prepare for the LifeGroup Discussion by:
  - A. Reading through this LifeGuide and becoming familiar with the content.
  - B. Make sure you take time to read and study the Scripture that is used in this LifeGuide.
3. Create a positive LifeGroup Environment by:
  - A. Serving Food! (Snacks or a meal – rotate who provides) - \*optional
  - B. Arranging the seating where everyone can see everyone's face
  - C. Setting the room temperature @ 69 degrees (cold keeps them awake)
  - D. Placing pets in another room
  - E. Supervising and placing children in a remote room
  - F. Keeping room bright with natural and artificial lighting
  - G. Having light/fun music playing (low to medium sound volume)
  - H. Having pens available
  - I. Keeping extra Bibles on hand
  - J. Making sure everyone knows each other
  - K. Making sure you don't go too long. (Try aiming for 30 minutes of fellowship at the beginning and 1 hour of group time.)

**Now you are ready for group time!**

# LifeGuide for Crazy Love – Are you crazy?

## Ice Breakers

Use one or more of the following “Ice Breakers” to get them talking:

- A. *What is the craziest costume you have ever worn?*
- B. *What is the craziest event you have been to with a large crowd?*
- C. *Who is the craziest person in your family, and what makes them so crazy?*

### **Leader Tips:**

Remember that the purpose of the ice breakers is to get everyone involved and ready to talk. Try to make this a natural transition into your Bible study time.

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## Setting the Stage

**Leaders:** The purpose of “setting the stage” is to effectively transition from the icebreakers to a discussion of the current weekend message. This section reminds everyone in your group of the overall theme and purpose of the sermon series, and gets their minds prepared for the subject matter.

Does something deep inside you long to break free from the status quo? The answer is not a longer list of do’s and don’ts. God’s crazy, relentless, all-powerful love calls us to a passionate, life-changing relationship with Him. What would happen if we loved God as much as He loved us? Come and see how radical love can be.

If we are going to talk about crazy love, we need to define what crazy looks like. Like everything else at Real Life, we find our definitions from the Scriptures. If we want to see what crazy love looks like, we need to search the Scriptures for examples of crazy love in action. The Bible is full of stories about men and women whom God loved passionately, and in return they loved Him and others with a relentless, crazy love.

As we search the Scriptures for these stories of crazy love, we are indebted to the author of Hebrews for summarizing some of these stories in chapter 11. In this amazing chapter about faith, we find a plethora of examples of great faith or crazy love that has been demonstrated over the centuries. We are thankful

that God has provided us with such great examples and instruction so we can possess a crazy love that brings Him the glory that He so richly deserves. If you will open your hearts and minds and be obedient to the truths of Scripture, you can also develop this crazy love that comes only from the power of Christ.

## Background and Context

Hebrews:

**Author** – The author of Hebrews never clearly identifies himself. Some have attributed the book to Barnabas or Paul while others believe it was more likely written by Luke or Apollos. Most scholars today concede that the author remains anonymous.

**Audience** – The assumption based on the title and internal evidence is that this letter was intended for mainly Jewish Christians.

**Theme** – The Supremacy of Christ

**Purpose** – Hebrews is best understood as a sermon letter meant to be read as a single sermon.

## Discussion Time

**Leaders:** Let me take a moment to make you aware of the content found in each LifeGuide, and how you can use it. Remember this is a “guide” so you should not feel compelled to read every word and follow it in perfect order. Basically, I want this guide to provide you Scripture that you can read and study together, explanation and commentary, and discussion questions to get the group talking. The questions are bulleted so that you can locate them easily. The guide does provide you with a general flow for the evening, but you are free to adapt the guide to the needs of your group. You are always welcome to call or email me if you have any questions. Please don’t feel like you are bothering me. It’s my pleasure and my job to help you.

Have someone or several people in your group read Hebrews 11 – 12:1-2. It’s a long read, but well worth it for your group.

**It is crazy how incredible God is.**

*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Hebrews 11:3)*

This is such a simple but profound truth. We can easily lose a sense of awe if we don’t continually remind ourselves how amazing it is that God created everything by simply speaking.

- What happens when you speak?
- What would you like to add voice automation to in your life?
- When was the last time you remember being in awe of God’s creation?

- How can we do a better job of reminding ourselves of the amazing Creator God?

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.*

(Psalm 19:1-4a)

*The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25)*

- What did God do beyond just creating that makes Him even more amazing?
- How do God's activities in creation demonstrate His crazy love for us?

## **2. It is crazy that God cares about me.**

*By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. (Hebrews 11:29)*

*You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern. (1 Peter 5:7 PHL)*

- Why do we desire to be loved by others so much?
- Why are we never satisfied completely by the love that humans can offer?
- How do you know that God loves you? How has He demonstrated that love to you in the past? How about recently?
- How have you responded to that love? How has it changed the way you love others?

### **Am I crazy for God?**

Crazy - intensely involved, excited, outrageous, all in.

- What is something none spiritual that you know you are crazy about? (example: fishing)
- Do you think all different kinds of personalities can accomplish this crazy love?
- What keeps some Christians from being intensely involved in church?
- Why are some Christians not excited about their faith?
- Why do some Christians just struggle to go all in when it comes to their faith in Christ?

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. (Hebrews 11:30)*

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)*

**ὅλος** - all, whole, entirely, completely

*You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

(Galatians 5:13-14)

Assignment: As a church—Marble Falls Launch / Cowboy Church Launch / Vacation for Pastors / End of series Sunday

As individuals - beef jerky / baby wipes / Gold Bond foot powder

*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Galatians 5:6b)*

- How can you demonstrate crazy love with your family this week?
- How can you demonstrate crazy love at work this week?
- How can you demonstrate crazy love in your neighborhood this week?

## Wrap Up

Sum up the lesson by re-capping the main point and challenge the group to apply the truth to their life this week.

1. Ask for praise reports from previous prayer requests
2. Ask for prayer requests
3. Ask each person (or couple) to volunteer for part of next week's meal/snack.
4. Make any announcements
5. Close with prayer and praise

☺ Let me know if you have any questions.

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