

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 – What does your life say?

Ice Breakers

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

- A. *What is the craziest restaurant you have ever eaten at?*
- B. *What is the craziest day of travel you have ever experienced?*
- C. *Who is the craziest person you have ever worked with?*

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.

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.

- How would you rate the crazy level of the people mentioned in this chapter of Hebrews?
- Who are some of the people that you don’t know about? (Take some group time to explore some of the stories that your group members are not as familiar with. Use a study Bible or the internet to find the stories in the Old Testament.)
- Which one of the stories speaks the most to you and why?
- Can you think of some big life lessons that you have learned from someone in your past?
- What are some big life lessons that you hope your kids can learn from you?
- How would you define “crazy love” if someone asked you about this new sermon series?

Remind your group of how we are defining crazy for this sermon series. Crazy love does not mean foolish love. You can be intensely involved, excited, outrageous, and all in without being foolish and careless. We want to challenge each other to live out a crazy love that is under the sovereign control of our amazing God.

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

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. (Hebrews 11:4)

1. Your life will say something after you are gone.

Abel - give with God in mind.

Noah - please God, not people.

Abraham - obey God even if you don't understand

Moses' Parents - small things for God are big things

Moses - Life is about God, not money and pleasure

___Your Name_____

*The memory of the righteous will be a blessing,
but the name of the wicked will rot. (Proverbs 10:7)*

- If your last week was communicated in a news report format, what would the headlines of your week be?
- What does your work life say about you?
- What does your social life say about you?
- What does your family life say about you?
- If next week is your last on earth, what would you want to say with your life throughout the week?

2. You don't have long to say something.

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (James 4:13-14)

- Why do we struggle to remember that life is short?
- What kinds of events or circumstances seem to quickly remind us that life is short?
- When was the last time you experienced one of these moments?
- What can you do to help remind yourself that life is short, and you should make the most of each day?
- How do you find balance between living for today and planning for tomorrow?
- Crazy Love is not lived out merely in crazy activities. How can you life with a crazy love in very normal daily activities?

3. Do today what you want to be remembered for tomorrow.

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. (Hebrews 11:6)

- What does tomorrow look like for you?
- Can you think of something you can do in the next couple of days that will challenge you to live out crazy love?
- Examples: Buy someone's meal at a restaurant. Share the gospel with a co-worker or neighbor. Buy someone's groceries in the checkout line.
- After you pick something to do, who is going to hold you accountable for following through on it?
- How does crazy love in the small things prepare you for the bigger things? (or maybe, just maybe the smaller things are the bigger things)
- How is crazy love simple and complex at the same time?
- What are the normal excuses that we use for not living this way?

Plan to celebrate with your group next time the amazing things that God will do through your simple but crazy actions this next 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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