

# 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 – How to Get Crazy.

## Ice Breakers

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

- A. *What is the craziest thing that has awakened you from sleeping?*
- B. *What is the craziest hair style you have ever had?*
- C. *Who is the craziest celebrity in your opinion?*

### **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.

This is the last week of Crazy Love, and we are getting ready to serve our communities for Christ.

- What have you learned about yourself through this Crazy Love series?
- Which story from Hebrews 11 will stick with you the most? Why?
- What is the most challenging thing you have heard throughout this series?
- Have you noticed a change in the way you are thinking yet?
- Have you noticed any changes in your actions over the last few weeks?
- What do you hope to change in the future?

Canceling church to serve our communities is crazy, but it shouldn’t be. We need to be actively serving those around us in the love of Christ.

- Why is it important to serve the people in our community?

- What do you think is the reputation of the church in your community?
- If we served our community all the time, do you think that reputation would change?
- We can only do so many big events. How can you serve your community as an individual and as a LifeGroup?

As we serve, it's important that we serve in the name of Christ. We need people to know why we serve, and whom we truly serve. It's not enough to just do good things for the people around us. Many organizations do good things, but they do them for all sorts of reasons. We must do good things because we serve the only One who is truly good, and that is Jesus Christ. We need to share the gospel as we serve, or people will never know the truth. We may clean their neighborhood, but if we don't show them how they can clean their heart, what have we really done.

- How can we share the gospel as we serve our community?
- Why should we share the gospel as we serve our community?

## 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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