Crazy Love

Week 1- Prayer

Leader Check-in

What were some of the big take-aways for you from Central's latest sermon series on "Crazy Love"? What are you hoping to get out of this 5-week series on the book *Crazy Love?*

Discover

Who is the person you talk to the most? Why?

Watch Session 1 of the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.

What do you think would come out of your mouth the moment you first saw God? What would be the first words you would say?

When was the last time you were in awe of God and His creation? Why do you think that is? Spend some time and go around the room sharing phrases or words that come to mind when you think about God.

Read Jeremiah 29:12. What is your reaction to God's promise here?

Fully Own

Describe your prayer life. What do you find hard about talking to God? What do you find easy?

As a group create a list of some of the distractions that keep you from talking to God. What can you do to overcome these distractions?

Take a moment and reflect on this question: "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" What can you do right now to ensure that prayer becomes your steering wheel and not just a spare tire?

Read Revelation 4 and Isaiah 6. Spend some time reflecting on the images in those two chapters. What details strike you the most? Why?

End your time together in prayer.

Challenge

Take at least 15 minutes each day this week to listen to God and talk to him. If you find it difficult to stay focused explore some ways that might help you best connect with God in prayer. Here are some resources that might help: *Common Prayer* by Shane Claiborne. You can also check out this listening prayer exercise: https://vimeo.com/251526100/4d94a8c4e8

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Week 2- God's Crazy Love

Leader Check-in

Were you able to take at least 15 minutes each day last week to listen to God and talk to him? If so share your experience. If not what were the distractions that kept you from Him and what can you do this week to cut out those distractions?

Discover

Think back to your childhood. What did you want to be when you grew up? Why?

Take a few moments with 2-3 from your group and find as many verses about God's love as you can (feel free to use Google). Share your favorites with the group.

Explain the difference between knowing God's love intellectually and knowing it intimately.

Fully Own

Watch Session 3 of *the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.*

Do you remember when you 'got it?' When you first realized you loved God with your heart, mind and soul? Share that moment with your group

Respond to Francis Chan's quote, "God loves you. Not your beauty, your money, your family or your car. *Just* you." Spend some time and think about your life and your relationship with God. How does God demonstrate His love to you?

"God's one goal for us is Himself." Do you believe that God is the greatest thing you can experience in the whole world? If so, how does it change how you live?

Challenge

Read James 4:13-17. In your own words, what do you think James is saying here? What is he warning against? What is he calling believers to do?

Death isn't something we like to think or talk about but take a few moments and lean in to the uncomfortable and ask this question: If today was the day that you died, what would you regret and why? Make a list of things that you would regret and then next to them write down what you can change about your life today to avoid those regrets.

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Week 3- Profile of the Lukewarm

Leader Check-in

Did you take time and do the challenge last week? If so, what were your potential regrets and what changes are you making?

Watch Session 4 of the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.

Discover

What did you lose when you started following Jesus?

Read Revelation 3:15-16. Jesus mentions the term 'lukewarm.' What do you think he means? List some of the characteristics or phrases that come to mind when you think about what Jesus' meaning of 'lukewarm Christians.'

Read Malachi 1:6-14. What were the Israelites doing wrong in their approach towards God? How did God respond to their half-hearted sacrifice? Would you say you are guilty of serving 'leftovers' to God? In what ways, or why not?

Read Luke 8:4-15. What type of soil best describes you? Why?

Fully Own

In your own words, describe the difference between living a perfect life and developing a posture of obedience to God.

Read Luke 14:33. What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus?

Take a few moments and share practical ways you can take up your cross and follow Jesus in your unique setting.

Challenge

Spend time this week and honestly evaluate yourself and your relationship with God. Do you think that you are living the 'lukewarm life'? If so, write down some thoughts about how to overcome lukewarmness. Write down a couple of ideas and be prepared to share them next week.

If you feel you are not living the 'lukewarm life,' how can you continue to overcome apathy and increase your love for God? Write down a couple of ideas and be prepared to share them next week.

Crazy Love

Week 4- Profile of the Obsessed

Leader Check-in

Did you take time and do the challenge last week? If so, in what areas could your life be considered 'lukewarm'? What ideas can you share with the group in how to overcome 'lukewarmness?'

Watch Session 7 of the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.

Discover

Do you agree with Francis Chan's statement that most Christians if they were honest wouldn't want Jesus to return today? Have you ever felt that way? Why or why not?

Rather than talking about the sinfulness of owning and buying things, talk about the silliness of the things you own in light of eternity. What of your 'silly things' can you give away to someone who is in need?

Read Acts 2:42. Are you more about protecting your own stuff than you are about the mission of Jesus? Why or why not?

Watch Session 8 of the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.

Fully Own

Take some time and ask yourself and your group 'Why not?' Talk about ways in which your group is already living the type of obsessed Christian life that characterized the early church. Then list ways your group can better live the obsessed life of the early church.

Respond to this quote, "God's definition of what matters is pretty straightforward. He measures our lives by how we love." Who are the people you can love this week? Write down their names and how you plan to love them this week.

Close the time with your group in prayer for the individuals you wrote down.

Challenge

Sit down with your family and assess your "things." That is, your earnings, savings, house, spending habits, how you spend your time, who you spend your time with etc. Reflect on them in light of eternity. Ask God to show you distractions in your life and expose things that you desire more than you desire God. Ask Him to decrease your desire for these things and increase your desire for Him.

Crazy Love

Week 5- Do Something

Accountability/Leader Check-in

Did you participate in the challenge last week? If so, what did you learn? Is there anything you plan to give up?

Who did you love last week and how?

Discover

Take a few moments and reflect on these past few weeks. What have you learned? What is your biggest take away? Share with the group.

Do you have any fears about what it would mean if you truly followed God's leading regardless of the cost and where it might take you? If so, take a minute to articulate those fears.

What do you think God would say to those fears? As a group come up with 3-4 verses about God's response to our fears. Feel free to use your Bible and the internet.

Watch Session 10 of the Crazy Love series on RightNow Media.

Fully Own

Read Matthew 25:21.

Take five minutes to yourself and list some of the talents, gifts and interests you have. Think about what you are passionate about and do well. Then share with the group how you might be able to use these unique aspects of your makeup for the glory of God.

How can you partner with the Christians around you to keep this from being just another Bible study or mountaintop experience? Avoid being vague.

Challenge

As a Life Group take the rest of your time and plan a way to practically show God's crazy love to others. Designate someone as the serving coordinator, nail down a date, and try to incorporate the gifts and talents of those in your group. Reach out to your Life Group Pastor if you would like ideas on organizations in the community to partner with.