

## **Crazy Love – Study Guide**

### **Preface & Chapter 1: Stop Praying**

#### **WARNING, READ BEFORE USING**

We've all seen the phrase, "Warning, read before using" and most of the time we skip right over all the small print and tear into the item we want to see, touch, and use. Well, I am glad you are stopping and reading this before jumping right into the questions of this study guide. There are three warnings I want you to be aware of before you start.

First Warning: ***Don't compare!*** God is going to do a good work in our lives (insert reference here?), therefore, Satan will try and hinder this from happening. One of the ways he is going to try and discourage you is to whisper in your ear, "Hey, look at so and so, she is doing so much for the Lord, what are you doing . . . you'll never be like her . . . why try . . . just be happy with what you have . . . hey, don't think about what you're learning, by the way your favorite TV show is on . . ." Fight the urge to compare yourself with others. God is going to do a good work in each of our lives. We'll all be growing, but some of us will need growing in different areas. God is going to use all of us, but don't compare yourself with another because it will lead you to being discouraged or to feeling prideful. Don't compare!

Second Warning: ***Get ready to see your life and this world differently!*** When you have your eyes open to living sacrificially for Christ, your life is going to change. When you open up your wallet, you'll begin thinking of how you can use it for God's glory. You'll read the newspaper and begin asking yourself if God is calling you to serve others in need. You'll grow in your love for Jesus doing everyday things! You'll see this world as a place to serve God and others, not yourself. You will really grow in your knowledge of 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Third Warning: ***You are beginning an adventure!*** Living a life as a disciple of Jesus Christ should not be lived in drudgery and duty, but one of delight and desire. Have you ever thought that your common life is just passing along and won't add up to too much? I have, but this not true for those who are disciples excited about living for Jesus obediently! When we follow after Jesus, He is going to lead our lives down paths we never expected. He is going to teach us things we never knew about ourselves or others. The Christian life is hard and challenging, but it is also exciting and rewarding. When you live life in faithful obedience to God you will see what an adventure it is to live for Him!

#### **Ready to Start the Adventure?**

We want you to see this small group series as an adventure of growing in joy for our Savior, Jesus Christ. Like any adventure, there will be tough times, there will be unexpected events, there may even be a time when you'll just want to turn back and say life is so much easier as I was living it before, but know that there will also be vistas that are unimaginable, there will be growth as a community, and there will be the reward of knowing and savoring Christ intimately.

\*Just a quick note about the questions section below. The Bible calls believers to transform their minds (Rom. 12:2) and when we do, it should lead to a change in our thoughts, will, desires, that ultimately leads to our actions, our words, and our attitude.

### **For Your Mind**

1. Write down the main point of the chapter.
  - a.
2. Look up the following verses and write down what this verse tells us about who God is.
  - a. 1 Peter 1:14-16 –
  - b. Psalm 102:12, 27 –
  - c. Hebrews 4:13 –
  - d. Daniel 4:35 –
  - e. Proverbs 8:13 –
  - f. Revelation 4:11 –
3. Re-read A.W. Tozer's quote on page 30. What is the purpose of humans on this earth (and in heaven)? When you look at the characteristics of God in question 2, how should that enhance your purpose in life?

### **For Your Heart**

4. Take on this scenario: You've just seen Jesus. One of those courtroom sketch artists has asked you to physically describe what you just saw. What do you say? Be as specific as possible. Try and figure out the sources of some of your descriptions.
5. Now read Revelation 4 and Isaiah 6:1-7. What do you think would come out of your mouth the moment you saw God? What would be the first words you would say?

### **For Your Life**

6. Stop and think about the last prayer you voiced. How did you begin? *Our Father? Dear Lord? Jesus?* What word or phrase did you use to start the prayer? Now, take a minute and consider the prayer you prayed *before* that prayer. How did you begin? Same word or phrase? Different?

Sorta different or radically different? If you begin all your prayers in much the same way, ask yourself why.

Read these words from G.K. Chesterton:

A child kicks its legs rhythmically through excess, not absence, of life. Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough...It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again," to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again," to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we. (*Orthodoxy*)

To temper question 1, remember that you could vary your introductory prayer phrase each time you voice a prayer and still not tap into that eternal appetite of infancy of freshness that Francis Chan talks about in *Crazy Love*. What word will you choose to start your next prayer?

7. How was your relationship with God and your prayer life different this week? If it wasn't different enough, how would you like to see it change?

### **Challenge for the Week**

Pick one day this week and ask God to show you an aspect of who He is. You can look at question two for some of God's attributes. For example, ask Him to show you how He is creator. And then throughout the day, keep your eyes and ears open to how He has created things, big and small. Write down the attribute you chose and what God showed you.