

# Life Group Lesson

Nothing More Beautiful • Week of September 6

We live in crazy times. Therefore, it's time to get crazy committed to Christ. After all, isn't it the normal and mundane that often gets lost in the shuffle of life. History remembers the ones who are zealously committed to the LORD their God. King David is remembered as a man after God's own heart. David was not a perfect man, but he loved the Lord and once danced before God with all his might, though accused of being undignified (2 Samuel 6:14-23). The apostle Paul was one of the most intelligent scholars of his day, and yet his radical commitment to Christ resulted in imprisonment and being called crazy and insane (Acts 26:24). There are many examples in Scripture of crazy commitment turning out to be the right thing to do.

## Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

1. Are you dissatisfied with any area of your life right now? Is it possible that your life is too normal?

If you want your life to be exceptional, why *is* it so normal? Are you willing to begin a new workout routine with God? (examples of a workout routine, below. Check the ones you are willing to step into. Add your own thoughts. Ask the LORD to coach you)

Reading the ONE YEAR BIBLE each day  
Studying (even memorizing) Scripture  
Writing out your prayers in the PREP Journal  
Volunteering at weekend service  
Being a regular attender of worship (in addition to your volunteering)  
Actively participating in a LIFE GROUP  
Leading your family in FAMILY WORSHIP time

People who have exceptional lives are people who adopt exceptional habits. Some may call them crazy. But we remember and are inspired by the individuals who have hope and believe that things can *and will* be better. The key to moving forward is forgiveness. Due to our fallen nature, it's 'normal' to hold a grudge when we are hurt. But Jesus says, "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses

it, you have won that person back... I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven" (Matthew 18:15,18). Your willingness to forgive can actually open the door for someone to know Christ.

2. It can be very difficult to forgive and let go of bitterness. And yet, forgiveness is the very remedy we need for healing and freedom. Christ's mission was all about reconciliation. **Re-read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.** Name at least three ways you have personally benefited from Christ's mission of reconciliation.

The apostle Paul says, "If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for you benefit. Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life" (vv13-14). To improve our health physically, we must 'die' to old grids and habits. Though losing extra weight can be hard (mentally and emotionally), it is not a mystery. It is a moment-to-moment commitment to eat less and move more. To improve our spiritual health, we must also 'die' to the old way. Take in less of this world, and move more in God's direction. Every day can be a challenge. But did you know you can start your day over *anytime* throughout the day? Simply pray—

"Lord, I give this mess to you (name it). I give you the resentment and misdirected anger that is tripping me up. Your word says I am to strip off every weight that slows me down (Hebrews 12:1). In faith, I shed the weight of \_\_\_\_\_ now at your feet. It is causing me to sin; would you please forgive me and help me? Help me press the reset button now, Lord. I need you. I trust you. Thank you for understanding me and loving me. I love you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

3. Paul says, "So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know Him now" (v16). Both Peter and John share a similar witness as they write the early church in their epistles. Read their words in **2 Peter 1:16-19** and **1 John 1:1-4**.

How can 'evaluating' another person through the lens of Christ give an entirely new perspective on your relationships?



**Text: 2 Corinthians 5:1-21**

The early apostles saw the Lord Jesus in His physical body. They were part of His public ministry, private discipleship-training, even fellowship and laughter. They were with Him in Gethsemane when His arrest and suffering began. And though they scattered at His trial and crucifixion, they were witness to His resurrection on the third day, and the 40-days to follow. As the Holy Spirit was poured out on these apostles at Pentecost, they began to see the bigger picture. This man they had followed was God’s Son; He *is* the Word of life – King of kings and Lord of lords. “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Crazy, but true.

4. Paul says, “Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others” (v11a). On a scale of 1 to 10, *how hard* do you work to persuade others to believe in Christ? Be honest, the Lord knows. Paul says, “God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this too” (v11b). Discuss with your Life Group (briefly).

If you are not where you want to be in your commitment, or if your life is too normal—then ask the Lord to help you. Decide to take a step closer to crazy commitment. Why not? What would that look like? Remember, God is in the restoration business; not the condemnation business. His mission is all about reconciliation and He graciously shares this mission with you, so you can bring others to know Him. Close in a time of prayer.

**One Year Bible Readings**

- Sept. 6: Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16, 2 Corinthians 8:16-24, Ps. 50:1-23, Prov. 22:22-23
- Sept. 7: Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14, 2 Corinthians 9:1-15, Psalm 51:1-19, Prov. 22:24-25
- Sept. 8: Isaiah 1:1-2:22, 2 Corinthians 10:1-18, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 22:26-27
- Sept. 9: Isaiah 3:1-5:30, 2 Corinthians 11:1-15, Psalm 53:1-6, Proverbs 22:28-29
- Sept. 10: Isaiah 6:1-7:25, 2 Corinthians 11:16-33, Psalm 54:1-7, Proverbs 23:1-3
- Sept. 11: Isaiah 8:1-9:21, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 55:1-23, Proverbs 23:4-5
- Sept. 12: Isaiah 10:1-11:16, 2 Corinthians 12:11-21, Psalm 56:1-13, Proverbs 23:6-8

1. Work towards Crazy \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Go \_\_\_\_\_ with a Sincere \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Plain Truth:**

It’s time to get \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

Crazy Committed by \_\_\_\_\_

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