

Additional Group Discussion Questions

For *Crazy Love*

By Francis Chan

(Thanks to Kurt Box for many of these questions, posted to Amazon.com)

Questions in Blue are from the Small Group DVD

Preface/Foreword/Chapter 1 – Stop Praying!

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

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?

1. Pg. 17 - Do you “know something is wrong?” Have you ever read the New Testament and wondered if we in the modern American church are “missing it”? What might be some things that are missing, or different from what we read in the Bible?
2. Have you ever been in total awe of God? When?
3. Do you believe God and science are at odds or supportive of one another? Why?
4. Pg. 28 - What do think of A.W. Tozer’s quote “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us?” Do you agree?
5. Pg. 29 – What does it really mean when we say God is “holy”?
6. Pg. 30 – Read **Hebrews 4:13** aloud. God is all-knowing. How could that be comforting in some ways? How is that an uncomfortable truth for us?
7. Pg. 31 – Read **Colossians 1:16** aloud. Why do you personally believe we (people) are here? Why are you here?
8. Pg. 31 – Read **Daniel 4:35** aloud. Does God owe you an explanation? Why or why not?
9. Has this chapter changed your view of God? If so, how?

Chapter 2: You Might Not Finish This Chapter

Talk about some people in your life who have died abruptly. What were some of their achievements in life and what were their regrets?

If today was the day you died, what would you regret and why? What can you change about your life today to avoid those regrets?

1. Pg. 38 - “Intellectually we all know that we will die, but ... we tend to live as though our lives would go on forever.” -Frederick Buechner. Read **James 4:13-14** aloud (p. 38). Paint a picture of what you think it would look like if you were to live as though you knew we were going to die in 5 years. Would it be different from how you live now? (James says we don't even know about tomorrow!)

2. P. 40 - How do “worry” and “stress” (p. 40) keep us from living like this? When we worry or stress out what are we saying to God?
3. P. 42 - If “life” were a movie, who would be the star? What role would we play? After discussing this, read **1 Corinthians 10:31** aloud. What does that add to your understanding of “life”?
4. What is your reaction to having so little control (even though we tend to think we have SO MUCH control) over your own life?
5. Has this chapter changed your “life view?” If so, how?
6. If this has changed your life view how can you stay focused on this new view (hint: **Ps. 73:3, 13, 16-17**)?
7. Can you justify how you live your life today based on this view?”

Chapter 3: Crazy Love

Do you remember the moment you “got it?” When you first realized you loved God with your heart, mind, and soul? Share that moment with your group.

How can you as a group “remember the cross” throughout the week?

1. P. 53 - Why is love such an integral part of who we are as image-bearers of God as well as fellow human beings on this planet?
2. P. 53 - Has the background that you came out of helped or hindered your relationship with God as it stands today? How and why?
3. Pp. 54-55 - Devotions have often been very difficult for me to keep up with. I sometimes just don’t want to do them, just don’t feel like it. Is not doing them when I don’t feel like it, a bad thing? Is doing them when I don’t feel like doing them a bad thing? Why or why not?
4. P. 58 - Why, when we constantly offend Him and are so unlovable, does God persist in loving us?
5. What are some basic definitions our culture gives to love? Do these definitions affect how we live?
6. P. 59 - How would you answer the student’s question (p. 59): “Why would a loving God force me to love Him? Threaten me with hell....if I don’t begin a relationship with Him?” Are you satisfied with the response Francis Chan gives (p. 60)? Why or why not?
7. P. 60 - “Are we in love with God, or just His stuff?” What’s the difference? Explain.
8. P. 60 - What, then, is the right motive for loving God?

Chapter 4: Profile of the Lukewarm

Read and discuss a verse with your group that jumped out at you from this week’s chapter.

Discuss what changes you plan to make in your life based off of your reaction to this chapter.

1. P. 64 - Read **Matthew 13:44** aloud. What’s the point of this little parable? Explain. If some Christians aren’t like this man, what do you think is the most likely problem?
2. P. 65 - What’s the danger of “assuming we are the good soil” from the parable? What is our biggest threat to being good soil? What are some things that you know are “choking” your faith?

3. P. 65 – Read **Philippians 3:10** aloud. What’s the problem with just wanting to be “godly enough”? What more did Paul want? What difference did that make in his life and ministry?
4. Pg. 66 – Chan says, “The American church is a difficult place to fit in if you want to live out New Testament Christianity.” Do you think he’s being overly critical, or not? Explain your answer.
5. Pg. 65 - Has your relationship with God actually changed the way you live? If yes, then how?
6. Have you ever suffered for someone else? If yes, tell us about it.
7. Pgs. 66-77 As you read over these 18 characteristics of the “lukewarm” which one, or verse really jumped out at you? Are there some you struggle with?
8. Have you ever run headlong into lukewarm Christianity (no names please)? How did you know it was lukewarm?
9. When you look at the lives of New Testament believers and compare it with our lives today, what is different in the priorities of the two groups?
10. Is there a point at which we can go “overboard” with how we pursue Christian living? Explain.

Chapter 5 Serving Leftovers to a Holy God

Being as honest as you can, discuss with the group any doubts you had with your salvation or your relationships with God after reading this chapter. Where did this chapter leave you?

Discuss the solution to living a “lukewarm life.”

What do you think about the question on the video that if we only had the Bible to draw from would we include “repentance,” “baptism,” “filled with the Holy Spirit” along with “asking Jesus into our heart” as Savior? How have we come to separate those things?¹

1. Given our discussion in Chapter 4, what do you think it means to be “lukewarm?”
2. Pg. 82 - Read **Revelation 3:15-18** aloud (p. 82). Francis Chan says that those who live like the lukewarm in the last chapter won’t be in heaven. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?
3. Pg. 85 – Is it possible to be a Christian without being a “disciple”? Why or why not?
4. Pg. 85, 86 – What is the difference between “failed attempts at loving Jesus” vs. being lukewarm? (*Important! Please cover this question with your Group.*)
5. Pg. 87 – How does this relate to our money and material things? Why do you think the Bible talk so much about material things and money?
6. Pg. 89 – Leftovers: “The bones I threw at God had more meat on them than the bones others threw, so I figured I was doing fine.” How does that compare with **Malachi 1:8** (read aloud)? Now read **Malachi 1:10**. What would God rather have you do than give him your “leftovers?”
7. Pg. 91 - How does God measures our lives? Why is that more important than “success?”
8. Pg. 92 - Try the “replace with your name” exercise. (1 Cor. 13: 2-3)
9. Pg. 93 - What is meant by **James 2:17** (“Faith, by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead.”)
10. Pg. 94 – What’s your reaction to someone who essentially says, “Yeah, I’m lukewarm at times, but right now I’m not really at a place to give more to God”? (Kurt Box, who posted some of the questions we are using in a review on Amazon.com wrote, “ I think what I’m having a hard time with

¹ We can separate these things out in a detailed doctrinal study (the “laboratory of thought” as one person put it), but in life they are all meant to be part of the normal Christian experience, as much as tires, engine, and steering wheel are part of a car.

is how we can be lukewarm, know it, and NOT care; not feel a pressure in your chest from it! How can we really GET God and what He wants from us and just say, okay, what are we studying next week? What's for dinner? Etc...")

Chapter 6 When You're In Love...

Intimacy vs. Reverence: which do you struggle with in your relationship with God?

What kind of baggage do you carry around with you in your life?

1. Pg. 98 - Have you ever met someone who is utterly and desperately in love with God and Jesus? How can you tell they're so in love? What are they like?
2. Pg. 99 - What is the answer to our lukewarm, selfish living? After several answers, read aloud Gal. 5:13-14.
3. Pg. 99 - Why do you think God created us? What is our ultimate purpose (in your own words)? How did you come to this conclusion?
6. Pg. 101 – What happens when we “try harder” not to be lukewarm?
7. Pg. 101 – What's the answer for being lukewarm, according to Jesus' own words to the Laodicean church in **Revelation 3:20**? What does that mean?
8. Pg. 105 - What can you give God?
9. Pg. 108 – Malachi 3:10. Have you ever really tested God in giving? What was the result?
10. Pg. 109 – Take a minute silently as a group. Answer, What goes in your _____ in this sentence at the top of page 109? Maybe conclude the study by one person reading aloud the closing prayer and others silently pray along.

Chapter 7 Your best life later...

Rather than talking about the sinfulness of owning and buying things, talk about the silliness of the things you own in light of eternal rewards.

What of your “silly things” can you give away to someone who is in need?

1. Pg. 113 - What do you make of the statement “something is wrong when our lives make sense to unbelievers?” Do you think that is true statement? Does your life make sense to unbelievers?
2. Pg. 114 – “Christians today like to play it safe. We want to put ourselves in situations where we are safe ‘even if there is no God.’” What are some ways believers are tempted to “play it safe”?
3. Pg. 115-116 – There are some **theological issues** on pages with Chan's interpretation of Matthew 25.

Matthew 25 is not talking about the general “poor” but in this clear context about the end time saints who will have been made poor because of their faith in Christ--due to persecution during the seven year Tribulation. These “brethren of Mine” had been previously gathered in Matthew 24:31 at His return and are the “elect.” This explains Jesus' words of identification with them, “You have done it unto Me.” (Compare this to Jesus instructions to His disciples in Matt. 10:40, when He sent them out. If people received Jesus' disciples, He considered it receiving Him, and vice versa). But what about the rest of the world, the “nations of the earth” (Matthew 24:30)? At His visible return will be pointless to ask, “Do you believe in Me?” The universal answer would be, “Of course, Jesus!” Instead, Jesus will examine the choices & deeds of those surviving the Tribulation and declare them

as either “goats” or “sheep” based solely on how they treated these persecuted saints (as either enemies or allies) during the previous seven years Tribulation before His return. And not all of these were “poor”...some were prisoners...or people forced to flee as refugees and seek hospitality. A similar thing occurred during the Nazi campaign against the Jews when many shielded them or took them in.

There are, however, many other passages that describe the importance of our ministry to the poor. But none, including this one, teach that giving to the poor is a “work” we must do to earn salvation. Instead, charity is a result of salvation, not it’s cause.

4. Pg. 117 – Read **1 John 3:16-20** aloud. What standard does Christ call us to as believers?
5. Pg. 119 – Why is it “... ludicrous to hold on to the abundance God has given us and merely repeat the words *thank you*” ?
6. Pg. 122 – Hebrews 11:6 says, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” What are you doing right now that requires faith in God, where there is no fall back plan?
7. Pg. 122 – Apart from going to church on the weekend and to small group, what is different in your life from your average neighbor’s life because of your faith in Christ?

Chapter 8 Profile of the Obsessed

Why not? Discuss why we can or can’t live like they did in the days of the early church?

In your group, what commitments can you affirm to one another tonight?

1. Pg. 128 – Why is it not enough to just be “nice” or even “kind” as a Christian in the midst of a lost world? Read Luke 6:32-36 aloud. What further standard does Jesus hold a true disciple to? Why is this essential to being a true follower of Christ?
2. “Love your enemies and do good to them...” (Luke 6) Does this make you uncomfortable to think about doing? Why? Have you ever had a personal experience of putting this into practice? What happened?
3. Pg. 129—Read Jesus words in Luke 14:12-14. Have you ever done anything like that? Describe what happened.
4. Pg. 131—“Risk Takers...” go to www.youtube.com and search for “francis chan balance beam” and watch the short little video. It’s excellent, funny, and makes a great point! You could send the link to everyone ahead of group to watch. Then discuss your own experiences with craving and praying just for safety versus taking risks for God.

Chapter 9 Who Really Lives That Way?

As Christians, who do you look up to and why?

What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind? What do you want to be known for?

Though we normally don’t go “around the room” for discussion questions, this might be a good opportunity to do so with these two questions.

1. p. 147-161—Which of these stories most grabbed you, or stuck you at first as just sort of “crazy”?

2. p. 162 – “I hope these life stories have done more than encourage you; I hope they have eliminated every excuse for not living a radical, love-motivated life. I hope they have challenged the multitudes who ‘feel called to the rich’ and ignore the poor. If biblical examples seem unattainable, hopefully these average, everyday people give you hope that you, too, can live a life worth writing about.” When you look at some of these stories, what sort of excuses or fears most readily pop up in your mind?

Chapter 10 The Crux of the Matter

1. p. 165 – “God is a creator, not a duplicator...” Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 aloud. What unique gifts, calling, or ways of serving do you think God may be calling you to do?
2. p. 167 – “The greatest blessing I received ... was seeing God work in situations where He has to...I’ve made it a commitment to consistently put myself in situations that scare me and require me and require God to come through.” By nature, are you a risk taker or cautious? How has that affected your stepping out in faith?
3. Share about the last time you intentionally went into a situation that was scary and required God to come through. What was the result?
4. p. 168 – It’s not trying harder, but falling in love with God. “if I stop pursuing Christ, I am letting our relationship deteriorate. We never grow closer to God when we just live life; it takes deliberate pursuit and attentiveness.” What daily disciplines to you do to pursue Christ?
5. p. 170 – “The world needs Christians who don’t tolerate the complacency of their own lives.” How would you define “complacency” in a Christian? What is the danger of not dealing with our spiritual complacency?
6. p. 172 - Read Romans 14:10-12 aloud. The Bible says even as believers we will all stand before God and give an account of ourselves. He’s literally going to say something like, “What did you do with what I gave you?” How does knowing this affect your life goals? Your use of resources like time, talents?