

Crazy Love – Video #3  
Sunday August 20, 2023

1. Short opening prayer (one person or popcorn style prayer)
2. Group sharing time (time for everyone to talk about what is going on and how they are)
3. Read quote end pg. 53 to top 54. Most of the time, we are good at acknowledging God's love in our head. But Francis says that love of God must be felt in our hearts.
  - a. What is the difference?
  - b. How can we go from just having the love of God as a fact to a deeply interwoven part of our lives?
4. Francis talks about how we all have things that get in the way of us realizing the deepness and reality of God's love for us. For him, it was a physically abusive father when he was growing up.
  - a. What has or still gets in the way of you fully realizing the love of God.
    - i. Pastor Matt: one of the things that gets in the way of my experiencing the fullness of God's love is my depression. The struggles overcloud God's love for me, and I often spend too much time wondering why God doesn't heal me the way I desire to be healed. In short, I get angry with God and that stops me from experiencing love.
5. Read quote in middle of pg. 57 about Francis learning to balance fear of God with a healthy reverence and joy.
  - a. Some people grew up in religious or social environments where God's love was emphasized. Other grew up and were constantly reminded of God's judgement and wrath. For example, I shaved my curly hair off when I was graduating from high school (I lived with my grandparents). I still remember my grandma saying, "You're going to go to hell if you don't appreciate the hair God gave you." This time of religious upbringing can make it very hard for people to see God's love for them.
6. Story on pg. 57 – 58 where Francis goes to the woods for four days and friend prays for him because he knows that God has wanted to be with Francis more. Francis argued at first and said no, I'm going because I want to be with God. That time showed Francis how much he still misunderstood how much God loved him truly and wanted to be with him.
  - a. Do you TRULY recognize how deeply in love God is with you and wants to be with you? Discuss.
7. Jeremiah 1:5  
"Before I shaped you in the womb,  
I knew all about you.  
Before you saw the light of day,  
I had holy plans for you:  
A prophet to the nations—  
that's what I had in mind for you."
  - a. Francis spent four days meditating upon that verse. Perhaps we all would be wise to spend a lot of time with it too.
  - b. Do you believe that God knew all about you before you were born? Or were you just another baby born in the world ... did God just pay special attention to some people like Jeremiah?
  - c. Do you believe that God gave you a purpose/s like God gave to Jeremiah?
    - i. Read Ephesians 2:10
8. On pg. 62 Francis says we love God not because of what we get out of God. I would add that God probably doesn't love us because of what God gets out of us. Unlike most every relationship here on

earth, our relationship with God is one where love is given and received for no alternative motive ... it's absolutely pure.

9. Watch video and discuss.

10. Can anyone maybe summarize in a minute what we can leave here with?

11. Challenge for the week: As a group, think of one scripture that shows how much (how crazy) God loves us. Send it to Pastor Matt and I will constantly remind you of it this week so that you think more often about how much God loves you ... even with a crazy love.

12. Closing prayer.