



Crazy Like Us Week One

Opening Prayer: God, we trust that you are here, and that you are interested in changing us for our good and the good of others. Help us to hear from you and to get a better understanding of what you're inviting us into.

Talk It Over:

This week we started a new series that centers on a way of living that might look crazy to others, but that God calls good.

- Have you ever felt or been told you looked crazy for doing something you believed God was calling you to do? How did you know God was calling you to do that good thing that felt or looked crazy? How did you handle the discomfort of looking crazy? How did things turn out?

Read John 3:16 and 1 John 4:8-10 (The Message)

This week we looked at the idea that the essence of the Bible and God is love, and that love can be defined as giving without condition or generosity. On the other hand, the opposite of love is lust, and the essence of lust is to take without condition or selfishness.

- Do you know someone who is loving and generous? Describe what you have observed or know about that person.
- Have you ever been the recipient of crazy generosity? Share about that experience with us.
- Lust and selfishness, or taking without condition, has the capacity to deeply hurt and mislead us. Have you ever been wounded by someone's lust or selfishness? Have you ever wounded someone else by your selfishness or lust? Share about that experience and what you learned.
- If both the essence of God and the Bible is love, why do you think so many of us still struggle with being loving and generous people? Why is it so easy for us to be selfish?

Read Genesis 1:27

While sin and brokenness — and their consequences — are a real thing, the Bible tells us that we were created in the image of God. We aren't God and we aren't gods, but we were made in the likeness of God.

- In what ways have you personally experienced God's goodness and generosity?
- In what ways have you seen yourself extend God's goodness and generosity to others?
- In what ways would you like to reflect God's goodness and generosity more this season?

Read Acts 20:35 (Voice), Proverbs 11:25 (NLT), and Proverbs 22:9

While generosity is not always natural or normal, generosity is a way of life God invites us into.

- Growing up was generosity something you witnessed regularly? What childhood memories or examples do you have of being exposed to generosity?

- In your own words how would you describe the difference between a random act of kindness and living generously?
- Have you ever experienced the happiness that comes from being generous? Share about that experience.

Read Luke 21:1-4

The invite God extends to live generously isn't determined by how much money we make, how much money we have, or even how much money we give.

- In this season of life what most often keeps you personally from being generous?
- What did this week's talk on living generously stir up in you? Are there any questions you are wrestling with? Are there any next steps you want to take?

The Bible teaches us that wise money management starts with giving, moves to saving, and then finishes off with spending.

- Who and when did you first learn money management? How has your view of money management evolved throughout the years?
- When it comes to money management, are there any habits you have to work hard at keeping?
- How are you doing at giving, saving and spending?

Closing Prayer: God, we want you to help us live freely, wisely and generously. Please help us to know our next step, and help us to both experience and reflect your goodness and generosity that much more.