

Kinda Crazy Christians | Doug Wekenman | 11.21.21

## Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following questions:

**What's your favorite part about the holiday season?**

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug kicked off week one of our new series, Kingdom Builders. It's time to celebrate how far we've come as a church and look forward to what is ahead. But before we get to the sermon, take a moment and check in with your Group by answering the following questions.

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

**What was the best conversation you had this week?**

GROW

**Read Luke 5:17-20**

**How does this story resonate with Doug's message on Sunday?**

**Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did in verse 20?**

Crazy faith is cutting a hole in a roof to lower your paralyzed friend in hopes that this Jewish man from Nazareth would heal him. In response to this type of faith, Jesus welcomed the men into the kingdom of Heaven.

As Doug posed the question to us this past Sunday: do we have a half-hearted or crazy-like faith? Jesus asked it like this: “Will I find faith when I return?” Do we move at God's voice or our comfort level? Do we relinquish control to Him, or do we keep our hands clenched tight? Do we act in faith like our lives depend on it? Because ultimately, our lives *do* depend on Jesus.

Cutting a hole through a roof seemed crazy until the men were forgiven of their sins and the paralyzed man walked out of the house. While physical healing doesn't always take place on this side of eternity, we can be sure that crazy faith unlocks full access to the kingdom of Heaven. A kinda crazy faith will set you free from scarcity to living in freedom with open hands.

**What area of your life is God challenging you to lean more on Him and step into faith?**

**What's one crazy faith decision you can make this week?**

M O V E

**Luke 5:21-26**

**Why do you think the scribes and Pharisees question Jesus when He tells the paralyzed man he is forgiven?**

**How did the faith of the men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus affect the outcome of this man's life?**

Jesus is constantly trying to work in our lives and those around us. We as Christians can either be part of the solution, bringing the sick and hungry to the feet of Jesus, or a hindrance, as we see with the scribes and Pharisees of this passage. The faithful friends of the paralyzed man

pushed through the crowd and did everything they could to give this man the ability to experience the miracle of Jesus even though it was challenging. Meanwhile, the scribes and Pharisees became wrapped up in the religious system requiring a priest or a certain set of other ground rules in order for Jesus to claim forgiveness over someone's life. They could not fathom Jesus as the Son of God, and their minds were not open to what was happening around them.

As believers, we must invest in the kingdom of God just like these men did. As we notice in this passage, the names of the men were not named. The glorification was brought to Jesus and the power of God. We need to seek this elevation of God instead of ourselves in our daily lives and be sensitive to those around us in need. Building the kingdom of God takes discernment, initiation, and often looking crazy to the world.

The inconveniences on our part is no comparison to the outcome of what God can do in the lives of others when we are faithful to the calling. When we become enthralled by the power of God in our own life, we will not be able to contain the need to share this good news with the world, and this story shows us how tangibly we can do this. That day, Jesus beautifully set an example to mankind on how to live our lives as sons and daughters of Christ.

**Can you remember a time when you were so focused on the rules or religiosity that you were blinded to the needs of others and the work of God around you?**

**How can our own life look more like the friends of the paralyzed man?**

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

- *“If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your 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.” – 2 Corinthians 5:13-14*

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