Preface and Chapter 1 - Please note that each chapter of this book has a brief accompanying video that you might find helpful as you read.  www.crazylovebook.com.

Francis Chan suggests that “it’s exhilarating to be part of a group of believers who are willing to think biblically rather than conventionally.”  (p. 20)

1. When you have gathered with a group of believers, have you experienced the exhilaration of thinking biblically about every day topics?  Does the idea of developing biblical thinking interest you? Why or why not?

2. If you were completely honest, would you say you are more bored or exhilarated with your life as a Christian? What does Chan say the crux of the problem is if you are bored? (p. 22)

Chan suggests that we are people who are very susceptible to something he calls “spiritual amnesia”.

3. What are we likely to forget and why?  What is Chan’s suggested remedy for this situation?

4. What help did you find in the discussion of God’s defining attributes?

5. If we became more familiar with God’s character, how would that help our spiritual amnesia and our day to day conversations with other believers?

6. If you have not already done so, take time to read and meditate on the words of Psalm 139, Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4—allow your imagination to “see” the person of God as described by these authors.

Chapter 2 and 3

7. Describe your thoughts and feelings after reading the opening pages of chapter 2.  What was Chan’s purpose in having us think about the reality of our own death?

8. What ideas in Chan’s discussion of “Justified Stress” did you find personally convicting?

9. What thoughts did you find freeing as he described how the movie of life is not all about us?

10. To what extent do you find the sections about “needing to get over yourself” and the brevity of life a way of thinking that might make your life more “exhilarating”? 
Regarding the love of God, Chan says, “Over time I realized that when we love God, we naturally run to Him—frequently and zealously.”

11. As you consider this quote, how closely does it describe your relationship with God? What do you think hinders you from having this kind of relationship with Him?

12. As you think about Chan’s question, “Are you in love with God or just His stuff?” how does the answer impede or encourage your relationship with the Father?

13. What things did God use to help Chan appreciate the depth of the Father’s love for him? What things would you include from your life if you were writing a chapter to encourage people to know and trust the love of God?

Chapter 4 and 5

Chan suggested strongly that American Christians are more drawn to a safe, comfortable, pain free life than they are to Christ. He stated that it is difficult to fit into American churches if you take the words of Christ literally or seriously.

14. What thoughts or reactions did these strong words stir in you?

15. It is very difficult to be complacent about being lukewarm after reading pages 68-82. Take time to look back through these pages and ask God to show you in which areas of lukewarmness you have become settled and satisfied.

16. After reading pages 83-87 of the book, read the Parable of the Soils in Matthew 13:1-23. In light of that Scripture, how do you answer Chan’s question, “Is this idea of the non-fruit-bearing Christian something we have concocted in order to make Christianity ‘easier’?”

17. What is the biblical answer to the question, “Can someone be a Christian without being a disciple?” How do pages 87 and 88 help you formulate a gospel centered response?

18. Why did your parents insist on warning you of things when you were a child? How might that understanding help you process the messages contained in chapters 4 & 5? If these chapters caused you to struggle with doubts about your faith consider how tragic it would be if you could read these 2 chapters and not be shaken by them!

After serious warning against being lukewarm and about not serving God our leftovers, Chan writes, “If life is a river, then pursuing Christ requires swimming upstream. When we stop swimming, or actively following Him, we automatically begin to be swept downstream.”
19. As you think about last year, would you say you have been swimming upstream or have you been swept downstream in your relationship with Christ? With the new mercy of Christ to help you swim, what do you hope next year will look like for you?

20. Think back to quote at the top of this study guide. In what ways is the book helping you see that life could be more exhilarating if the lukewarm safety of church going was replaced with the upstream pursuit of Christ?

Chapter 6 & 7

21. As you remember what it was like to “fall in love”, how does that help you understand Chan’s counsel “don’t try so hard” in your relationship with Christ? What danger does he warn us about if we simply try to will ourselves to love God more? (p.101-106)

22. In what way did Chan link the ideas of giving and loving God? (p. 107-111) Take time to reread and answer the questions that Chan raises under the section entitled “SomeOne I can be real with”.

Chan suggests that if we truly desire to please God we cannot live playing it safe. “We have to do things that cost us during our life on earth but will be more than worth it in eternity.” (p. 116)

23. What thoughts did you encounter when you were advised to live your “best life…later”? How would your life differ if you sought to live your “best life…later”?

24. What are you doing right now? As you think about all that you are involved in right now, do any of those things require faith? Take time to watch the video for chapter 7 at www.crazylovebook.com and consider what faith venture you might launch into this fall.

25. In pages 118-128 Chan returns to the theme of how our giving is a measure of our loving. How did your mind and heart respond when you were dared to give radically and liberally? How does your thinking on this topic need to change in order to bring it in line with Christ’s?

Chapter 8 & 9

Chan states that “sometimes we assume that if we are nice, people will know that we are Christians and want to know more about Jesus. But it really doesn't work that way…There has to be more to our faith than friendliness, politeness, and even kindness.” (p. 130)

26. After reading the 13 characteristics of people who are obsessed with Jesus, describe how this profile helps you see the difference between conventional, worldly thinking and biblical thinking.
27. As you read the characteristics of an “obsessed” person, in what areas do you sense the need for God's help for personal growth?

28. In case you were thinking that no one could really live the surrendered, obsessed life, Chan provides biographies of real life Christians who have. Which biographies struck a responsive chord with you and why?

29. Watch the chapter 9 video and share your responses as you listened to Ron Regenstreif’s testimony.

Chapter 10 – The Crux of the Matter

In the last chapter of his book Francis Chan states, “My hope and prayer is that you finish this book with hope, believing that part of your responsibility in the body of Christ is to help set the pace for the church by listening and obeying and living Christ.” (p. 172)

30. In a recent movie entitled “Bucket List” two men who knew their lives were coming to an end made a list of things they wanted to do before they died. After reading Chan’s book, what bucket list do you think God has written for you to help set the pace for Crestwood and to His people in Richmond and to the ends of the earth?

31. As you listen to the inclinations of your heart after this reading, are there any life changes that you plan to make as a result of this reading?