

**Glenville New Life Community Church
&
Calvary Presbyterian Church**

Life-Sharing Series

Insanity For Christ



- Lesson 1 “Who Is God—Why Jesus”**
- Lesson 2 “Who Am I—Why Am I Here”**
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- Lesson 4 “Fanatic Of Fair Weather Fan”**
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Pastor Toby, Pastor Kellie & Pastor Rick

www.glenvillenewlife.com and www.calvarypresbyteriancleveland.org

711 East 105th Street Cleveland 44108 7820 Euclid Avenue Cleveland 44103

Life Sharing Lesson 1 “Insanity for Christ: Who is God – Why Jesus?”
Isaiah 45:5-10 Luke 4:16-20

1. What was your first image of God as child?

2. What was the first major disappointment you had with God and how did it affect you?

Isaiah 45:5-13 Today's New International Version (TNIV)

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, ⁶ so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

⁸ “You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the LORD, have created it. ⁹ “Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherds among the potsherds on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, ‘What are you making?’ Does your work say, ‘The potter has no hands’?”

¹⁰ Woe to those who say to their father, ‘What have you begotten?’ or to their mother, ‘What have you brought to birth?’ ¹¹ “This is what the LORD says— the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? ¹² It is I who made the earth and created human beings on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts. ¹³ I will raise up Cyrus^[b] in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty.”

3. Based on this passage of Scripture, do you think God feels as though God has a claim upon our lives. Why or Why not?

4. What if anything do you think you owe God and why?

5. With all the evil that takes place in the world, why does a holy and righteous God seem to be interested in having a relationship with human beings? Is God heading down the path of insanity?

Luke 4:16-20. New International Version (NIV)¹⁶ He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”^[a]²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

5. Who is it that has appointed Jesus to do these things, and what do you think is the motivation behind it all?

6. In this passage, Jesus announces five things that He was sent to do. Which of the five did you or do you recognize as the greatest need for in your life?

7. Why do you matter so much to Jesus?

8. Why is neglecting Jesus in your daily life a form of insanity, especially for believers?

9. What keeps Jesus' death on the cross from being an act of insanity?

10. How does the death of Jesus, increase your value in the eyes of God?

11. What is it that makes Jesus different from all the other religious leaders that have come into the world?

12. What is closest to the truth about your relationship to God today?
 1. I'm not sure there is a God.
 2. I believe in God, but I'm not ready to follow God.
 3. I believe in God, and I want to follow God, but I need time.
 4. I believe in God and I am a fan God.
 5. I believe in God and I am a follower of God.

13. How are you doing with your devotions and remembering your morning prayer, "Good morning God. What Is Your Plan For Us Today?"

**Life Sharing Lesson 2 “Insanity for Christ: Who am I?- Why Am I Here
Psalm 139:13-18, 1 Peter 2:9, John 1:10-12**

1. When someone asks you “who are you”, what’s the first three pieces of information that you give about yourself?

2. What are two things you feel you need to accomplish before you die to feel as though your life had meaning?

Psalm 139”13-18 ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ;your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, ^[a] God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.

3. If you really believe that God put you together in your mother’s womb, what kind of affect should that have on your life?

4. What is something that God has created uniquely about you?

1 Peter 2:9 Today's New International Version (TNIV) ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

5. What does it mean to be called “out of darkness into his wonderful light?”

6. When was it that you realized you were actually in darkness?

7. Are we a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation because we chose to follow God or because God decided to choose us?

8. Is there a difference in “being created by God” and “being a child of God?” Why or why not. What is a benefit of each?

John 1:10-12

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

9. Does believing in God, make you a child of God?

10. What is it that’s different about a good moral Muslim and a good moral Christian?

11. Do you more feel more comfortable declaring to Satan or to God, “I am a child of God.” Why?

12 . Why is declaring to the world, “I am a child of God” likely to be taken as a form of insanity?

13. Has anyone asked you, “Who You Are From Wearing Your Button” ? What was your response?

14. Are you keeping up with the devotions and the morning prayer?

Life-Sharing Lesson 3 “ Insanity For Christ: What’s The Cost”
Mark 12:28-34, Matthew 6:24

1. When was a time when you did not give yourself 100% to something and regretted it later?

The Greatest Commandment Mark 12: 28-34

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.’^[e] ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’^[f] ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[g] There is no commandment greater than these.”

³² “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

2. What picture comes to your mind when you think of someone who loves the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength?

3. What kind of behaviors would we be doing that others would consider insane if we were to love our neighbors as ourselves?

4. At a store if an item costs \$2.53, we pay \$2.53, but if God says its \$2.53 why do we try to get away with paying \$1.35.

5. When it comes to giving our lives to God, the real issue is” how much of our lives are we going to keep for ourselves?” What do you think is at the heart of our holding back on God?

6. Why does the commandment require all of our heart in loving God, instead of just requiring the largest portion of our heart? How do you define “love” in this passage of loving God with all your heart.

7. What is it that makes it difficult about trying to love your neighbor? How do you define the word “love” in this passage of loving your neighbor as yourself?

8. How do you know when you have enough stuff to take care of yourself?

9. Why does accumulating stuff, challenge our ability to love God and to love our neighbor?

10. When does the accumulation of wealth, become a form of insanity?

Matthew 6:24 ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

11. Why didn't Jesus say that you cannot serve both God and the devil, but instead said you cannot serve God and money?

12. Is it true, the more money you have, the more money you waste? Why or why not.

13. When it comes to giving, we often think of how large of a percentage we give, but God looks at how large of an amount we choose to keep. When our income goes up, should the percentage we give also go up? Why or why not

14. Did you feel out a pledge sheet? Were you honest in how much of yourself you were giving to God?

15. Are you on track with your devotions?.

15b. Do you have a testimony from your button—

15. Remember Come dressed next week like a fanatic for Christ. (Could your group come up with a strategy for dressing or doing something together on Sunday??? As fanatics for Christ)

Life-Sharing Lesson 4 “Insanity For Christ: Fanatic Or Fair Weather Fan”
John 6:25-71,

1. What’s the difference in being a Fanatic for your church and a Fair Weather Fan of your church?

2. What would happen to you if you were to go a year and God did not answer yes to a single one of your prayers?

3. Do you think God is obligated to give us a some kind of goodie treat on somewhat a regular basis to keep us cheering in God’s corner? Why?

Jesus the Bread of Life (The previous day, Jesus had miraculously fed over 5,000 people from five loaves of bread and two fish. After Jesus had fed them, they claimed that surely Jesus was the Prophet who was to come. They intended to make Jesus king by force but he got away from them. They went looking for Jesus the next day for some more food.) John 6:25-71

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” ²⁶ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

²⁸ Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”²⁹ Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’^[c]”

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷ All whom the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

⁴¹ At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”

⁴³ “Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴ “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’^[d] Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶ No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰ But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which people may eat and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹ He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

Many Disciples Desert Jesus

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” ⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit^{le} and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.” ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” ⁷⁰ Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” ⁷¹ (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

4. Jesus probably would have been fired as a pastor. In one day, with one sermon, he lost thousands of followers. What did Jesus do wrong?

5. Why was the crowd so large in the first place? What should be the real reason for coming to see Jesus?

6. What are some of the difficult types of teachings that God gives to the church to follow today?

7. What is the difference in asking the questions “what’s best for the church” and “what’s best for my church?”

8. What does it mean for us to feed on Christ and to drink His blood? What are the alternatives available to us?

9. Has anyone ever told you, you take your faith too seriously or that you have gone too far in this thing with Jesus? If not, how does that make you feel?
10. Why does it take adversity to separate the fanatics from the fair weather fan?
11. When or where are you more apt to be a fair weather fan in your walk with Christ?
12. Why does Jesus ask the twelve disciples if they too wanted to leave Him as well?
13. The disciples wanted to stay with Jesus because they believed that He was the Holy One Of God. How critical is it to know that Jesus is the Son of God, to keep us from becoming fair weather believers?
14. Are you on task with your devotional,
- 14a. Are you on task with your morning prayer, and looking at your check?
- 14b. What did you do to come dressed as a fanatic on Sunday?

Life-Sharing Lesson 5 Insanity For Christ “Picking Up Your Cross”

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 8:34-38

1. When was the last time you said yes to something or someone, that you really did not want to comply to, but you did it anyways? Why did you do it?

Matthew 26:36-46

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. ⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

2. Why is Jesus so troubled in this passage?

3. How do you handle a conflict when God is asking you to do something, that you clearly do not want to do?

4. Why does Jesus yield himself to saying yes to the will of His Father?

The Way of the Cross

Mark 8:34-38 ³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life ^[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for you to gain the whole world, yet forfeit your soul? ³⁷ Or what can you give in exchange for your soul? ³⁸ If any of you are ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of you when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

5. Who is the “whoever” that Jesus is referring to in verse 34?

6. Why do you think Jesus gives the same challenge to the crowd and his disciples? Wouldn’t the disciples already be doing the things in verse 34?

7. In John 3:16, we are told that whoever “believes” in Christ shall be saved? How is this different from what Jesus is saying in verse 34?

8. How far are we to go in denying ourselves to follow Jesus? Is this an insane demand on Jesus’ part? Why?

9. What do you think it actually mean to pick up a cross and follow Jesus?

10. Do we all pick up the same cross, do we all get to choose our cross, and what if we don't like our cross?

11. Is picking up your cross more of a positive or negative event? Why?

12. Do you think Jesus is saying that if we do not do verse 34, then somehow we are selling our souls for something else? Can you think of something you may be selling your soul for in exchange as opposed to following Christ?

13. Why does Jesus appear to try to keep discouraging people from following Him with his insane claims on their lives? Wouldn't there be more followers if Jesus spent more time teaching on what to expect in heaven?

14. Have you had the opportunity to use your cross this week to make a difference in something you were about to do?

14.(b) Do you have a button testimony?

14(c) How are you doing with your devotions?

Life-Sharing Lesson 6 “Insanity For Christ: Own Your Potential” 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-13

1. What is one thing you know that you are or were really good at? How did/do you feel when you were/are doing it?

2. Do you believe that God believes, that you have something to offer to help build the church? Why?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, ^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ^[b] ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Romans 12:3-8

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your ^[a] faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, ^[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

3. Having read the above two passages, which people in the church have been excluded by God from having a spiritual gift?

4. Why is it a form of insanity for 75% of the church to not be involved in any ministry in the life of the church?
5. Which gift or gifts do you have right now from the above two passages? Are you being fanatical in the use of using of the gift, or are you hiding it by keeping it to yourself? Who does the gift belong to?
6. When you filled out your service sheet this past Sunday, did you look more like a fanatic or a fair weather fan by how much you were willing to commit to do?
7. How does picking up your cross and accepting God's spiritual gift inside of you work go together?

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

8. What is the purpose of those in various leadership roles and ministries in the church according to this passage in Ephesians?
9. On a scale of 1 to 10, (1 not at all, 10 completely open) how open are you to being equipped for new works of service in the church in order to build up the body of Christ.

10. What would a church of fanatics for Christ look like in terms of the members?

11. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 not at all, 10 very much so), how responsible do you feel personally for the health of the church? Does your score put you in the realm of fanatic or fair weather fan?

12. What does it mean to own your potential in the life of the church?

13. What's the connection between faith and owning your potential?

14. Are you a follower or a fan of Jesus?

14 b What have you learned from this series about yourself?

15. Are you participating in the fast? What are you learning?

15b. Did you get the chance to pick up your cross this week?

15c. Did your button open a door for you to share?

15d. How are you doing with your devotions.