



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: **CRAZY LOVE**
Message: *"I Am an Instrument of Kindness"*



PRAYER: God, your grace calls us into all creation, into redemption and transformation. O God of the poor, you challenge us with the vision of a world of shared abundance and graced possibilities. Lord, have mercy. O God of the prisoner, you invite us to risk living in the glorious freedom as the children of God. Christ, have mercy. O God of the brokenhearted, you empower us to heal and be healed by walking with those whom you love and for whom you gave your only begotten. Lead us, now, O God of hopefulness, to see your people who suffer, to hear your word that summons us to love your world. We ask this in the name of your beloved, Jesus Christ, now and always with you and your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Have you ever known anybody who was robbed? Describe the experience.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus often taught in parables. This form of story is designed to challenge the assumptions of the listener and to explode the ways in which the listener has become accustomed to thinking about the world; both the way things are and the way things ought to be. The parable of the "Good Samaritan" mixes experiences and characters that would have been familiar to those who first heard it with some radical possibilities on which to build a new understanding of what must be done to "inherit eternal life." Identify the actions that stand out in this parable (vs. 30-36).
2. Identify what characteristics the verbs have in common. What do the verbs tell us about how we should live as people of faith in the world? Some suggestions might include engaging directly, being proactive, doing whatever it takes, committing for the long haul or being willing to get out of our comfort zone.
3. What does the parable invite us to change in the light of our Christian calling? How is success defined in this story? What kinds of ministry do you find in this story? What is the underlying issue that is at the root of the personal situation that the story describes? What other things could be done to address the underlying issue? If you were the injured person in the story, what would you be asking this group to do? What actions would you ask us to undertake, and why?

CHALLENGE: Ask God to show you one thing you should DO this week to become a more loving person. **Make a commitment to worship during Transformation 2010.**

SERVE: As a group, one of the ways you can demonstrate love is through serving. Take this time to begin to plan how your group will serve in the first six months of 2010. Write the plan down and get started.

CHAMPION TIP: As a champion, your leadership is significant. Ask the group to pray for you and then you pray for yourself that God would make you into a more loving person. Do it now!