

Cure for the Common Life

Max Lucado

The focus of this study is to identify, and then engage, your sweet spot. Your sweet spot is the way you engage the world, and those in it, that also brings you joy, increases your energy, and meets a real need in real lives.

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Frederick Buechner (Wishful Thinking, A Seeker's ABC)

Week One: Week of January 16, 2022 Group Life Leader Notes

Opening Questions:

1. What was the very first paid job you had? Describe your boss from that first job. What did you like most about that job, and what did you like least?
2. What do you think is the greatest need in our world today?

Study Week One:

- Read pages 1 - 61 (*while the style and format make reading this book easier than most this is a lot of pages! It is by FAR the most you'll be asked to read in a given week. Reading assignments for the remaining weeks are typically 5 to 10 pages.*)
- The first section, pages 1 - 46 sets the foundation for the entire book.
- The chapter for group discussion is found on page 53.
- Study Questions begin with questions for chapter 6 found on pages 175-178.
 - Due to the late arrival of the books I will include the study questions from the book below.

Questions for Chapter 6 "Take Big Risks for God". Pages 175-178

Review the Diagnosis

1. How you relate to the Master of the house colors everything. Dread him and you hate your work. Trust him and love it.
 - A. Who is the Master of your house? Explain
 - B. Do you see your work as a Kingdom assignment? If so, in what way?
 - C. How do you trust your Master on a day-to-day basis? How do you demonstrate your trust?
2. The only mistake is not to risk making one. Such was the error of the one-talent servant.
 - A. What kind of risks have you taken for God?

- B. What keeps you from taking risks for God?
- C. How has God shown Himself faithful in the risks you have taken for Him?

3. The first two invested. The last one buried. The first two went out on a limb. The third hugged the trunk. He made the most tragic and common mistake of giftedness. He failed to benefit the Master with his talent.

- A. How are you investing your talents for the Lord?
- B. In what areas might you be “burying” your talent or “hugging the trunk”?
- C. Are there talents you’re using – but not for the Lord’s benefit? Explain.

4. The Master repeated the assessment of the servant, word for word, with one exclusion. Did you note it? “I knew you to be a hard man.” The Master didn’t repeat the description he wouldn’t accept.

- A. What causes some people to think of God as a “hard” Master?
- B. Why won’t Jesus accept a description of His Father as “hard”?
- C. When people think of God as a hard Master, how do they normally react?

5. Who is this unprofitable servant? If you never use your gifts for God, you are. If you think God is a hard God, you are. And you will live a life of interred talents.

- A. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being unprofitable and 10 being profitable, how would you rate yourself? Explain.
- B. Have you ever thought of God as a hard God? What were the circumstances?
- C. Which gift could you use more fully for God? What steps could you take to begin “investing” it for him?

Read the Prescription

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30

- A. To which of the three servants portrayed in this parable do you most relate? Why?
- B. How does the Master respond to each of the three servants in the parable?
- C. What general principal does Jesus outline in verse 29? How do you personally react to this principal? Explain.

2. Read Psalm 103:8-13

- A. How is God described in verse 8? Have you experienced God in this way? Explain.
- B. What is the main point of verse 12?
- C. To what does the Psalmist compare God in verse 13? Why is this important?

3. Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 and Philippians 4:12-13

- A. How did the apostle Paul risk his life for Christ?
- B. What do you think prompted him to take life-endangering risks for God? According to Philippians, what was Paul’s source of strength?
- C. How much are you willing to risk for God?

Reawaken the Excitement

1. What major personal strength did you identify in your S.T.O.R.Y.? Spend a couple of days in prayer, asking God how you might use that strength in taking a risk for Him. Once a clear idea of the risk you can take has formed in your mind, launch out and take the risk. Afterward, “debrief” with some mature Christian friends and discuss what happened. What did you learn? How can you use this experience to shape future risks you could take for God?
2. Read a biography of a courageous Christian who regularly took risks for God, such as William Carey, Amy Carmichael, George Muller, or Fanny Crosby. How can their examples embolden your enthusiasm for taking risks for God?

Grace of Christ Winter 2022 Group Life Study
January 19 - March 23

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Week Two: Week of January 23, 2022 Group Life Leader Guide

Opening Questions:

1. What is something you enjoyed doing as a kid that you haven't done in a long, long, time? Is it something you should try doing again? Why or why not?
2. If there was one Guinness World Record you wish you held ... what would it be (holding breath the longest, jumping furthest, running fastest ...)?

Study Week Two:

- Read pages 63 - 70 (Chapter 7: "Come to the Sweetest Spot in the Universe")
- Study Questions for chapter 7 are found on pages 179-182 of the book
 - Please contact the church office if you need a copy of the book or you have questions about the study, or about leading your group.