

lysa terkeurst made to crave

Made to Crave is a transformative book by Lysa TerKeurst that delves into the complex relationship between faith, food, and emotional well-being. In this insightful work, TerKeurst, a bestselling author and speaker, invites readers to explore the idea that cravings are not just about food but are deeply rooted in the spiritual and emotional aspects of our lives. This article will unpack the key themes and insights from Made to Crave, offering readers guidance on how to navigate their cravings through a faith-based lens.

Understanding Cravings and Their Impact

Cravings are often seen as a simple desire for food, but TerKeurst encourages us to look deeper. She posits that these cravings can signify emotional or spiritual needs that go unfulfilled.

The Nature of Cravings

1. **Physical Cravings:** These are genuine needs for nutrients and energy. For instance, if you're low on protein, you might crave meat or legumes.
2. **Emotional Cravings:** Often linked to feelings of stress, sadness, or boredom, these cravings lead us to seek comfort in food rather than addressing the underlying emotions.
3. **Spiritual Cravings:** TerKeurst emphasizes that a yearning for a closer relationship with God can manifest in various ways, including through food.

The Cycle of Cravings

TerKeurst describes a cycle that many individuals experience:

- **Craving:** The initial desire for food or comfort.
- **Eating:** The act of consuming food, often without mindfulness.
- **Guilt and Shame:** Following the consumption, individuals often feel guilty or ashamed, leading to a desire to numb those feelings, creating a repetitive cycle.

Breaking the Cycle: A Faith-Based Approach

Lysa TerKeurst's approach to cravings is not just about dieting or restrictive eating. Instead, she encourages readers to connect their cravings with their spirituality, emphasizing that true fulfillment comes from God.

The Connection Between Faith and Food

1. **Prioritizing Spiritual Nourishment:** Just as our bodies need food, our souls need spiritual sustenance. Engaging in prayer, meditation, and reading scripture can help satisfy spiritual cravings.
2. **Mindful Eating:** TerKeurst advocates for a mindful approach to eating, where one pays attention to hunger cues and the emotional triggers behind cravings.
3. **Surrendering to God:** By relinquishing control and trusting God with our cravings, we can find peace and fulfillment outside of food.

Practical Steps to Manage Cravings

TerKeurst offers several practical strategies for managing cravings:

- **Identify Triggers:** Keep a journal to track when cravings arise and what emotions accompany them.
- **Develop Healthy Substitutes:** Find healthier options that can satisfy cravings without leading to guilt. For example, if you crave sweets, opt for fruit or dark chocolate.
- **Set Boundaries:** Establish rules for when and how you eat. For example, designate specific times for meals and snacks.
- **Engage in Community:** Surround yourself with supportive friends or groups that share similar goals.

The Role of Scripture in Overcoming Cravings

One of the most powerful aspects of *Made to Crave* is its integration of scripture. TerKeurst draws on biblical principles to reinforce her messages.

Scriptural Foundations

1. **1 Corinthians 10:31:** "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." This verse serves as a reminder that our choices, including what we eat, should reflect our faith.
2. **Psalm 34:8:** "Taste and see that the Lord is good." TerKeurst encourages readers to experience God's goodness as a substitute for the temporary satisfaction of food.
3. **Philippians 4:13:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." This verse offers encouragement and motivation to overcome cravings through reliance on divine strength.

Daily Devotions and Reflections

To reinforce the connection between faith and cravings, TerKeurst includes daily devotionals that encourage reflection on personal experiences with food and faith. These reflections help to:

- **Cultivate Gratitude:** Acknowledging what God has provided can shift focus from cravings to appreciation.
- **Encourage Accountability:** Sharing reflections with a partner or group can foster a sense of

accountability.

- Promote Growth: Regular reflections can lead to a deeper understanding of oneself and one's relationship with food.

Transforming the Mindset Around Food

TerKeurst's work encourages a profound shift in mindset regarding food and cravings. This transformation is crucial for long-term success.

Shifting from Restriction to Freedom

1. Redefining Food: Rather than viewing food as a source of guilt, TerKeurst suggests seeing it as a gift from God meant to be enjoyed in moderation.
2. Building a Healthy Relationship: By focusing on balance rather than deprivation, readers can create a healthier relationship with food.
3. Emphasizing Joy: Celebrating meals, enjoying the process of cooking, and sharing food with loved ones can enhance the experience and reduce the emotional weight of eating.

Encouraging Self-Compassion

1. Recognizing Imperfection: TerKeurst emphasizes that everyone struggles with cravings and that it's important to be gentle with oneself.
2. Celebrating Progress: Acknowledge small victories in managing cravings rather than focusing solely on setbacks.
3. Practicing Forgiveness: If a craving leads to overeating, practice self-forgiveness and refocus on the journey ahead.

Conclusion: Embracing the Journey

Made to Crave is more than just a book about food; it's a guide to understanding the deeper emotional and spiritual aspects of our cravings. Lysa TerKeurst challenges readers to explore their relationship with food through the lens of faith, urging them to seek fulfillment in God rather than in temporary comforts. By applying the principles outlined in the book—such as mindful eating, scriptural reflection, and community support—individuals can break free from the cycle of cravings and cultivate a healthier, more fulfilling life. Embracing this journey requires patience, self-compassion, and a commitment to spiritual growth, ultimately leading to a more profound understanding of one's cravings and a closer relationship with God.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Made to Crave' by Lysa TerKeurst?

The main theme of 'Made to Crave' is the exploration of the relationship between faith and food, emphasizing that our cravings can lead us closer to God when we learn to rely on Him for strength and fulfillment.

How does Lysa TerKeurst address emotional eating in 'Made to Crave'?

Lysa TerKeurst addresses emotional eating by encouraging readers to identify the root causes of their cravings and to seek comfort and fulfillment in their relationship with God rather than in food.

What practical advice does Lysa TerKeurst offer in 'Made to Crave'?

Lysa offers practical advice such as setting realistic goals, developing healthier eating habits, and incorporating spiritual practices like prayer and scripture reading to help manage cravings and build a healthier lifestyle.

Who is the target audience for 'Made to Crave'?

The target audience for 'Made to Crave' includes women struggling with weight loss, emotional eating, and those seeking a deeper spiritual connection through their challenges with food.

What impact has 'Made to Crave' had on readers since its release?

Since its release, 'Made to Crave' has had a significant impact on readers, inspiring many to change their mindset about food and body image while fostering a stronger faith-based approach to personal struggles.

Are there any follow-up resources or studies related to 'Made to Crave'?

Yes, Lysa TerKeurst has developed a companion study guide and various resources, including online video teachings and group study materials designed to deepen the insights and practical applications found in 'Made to Crave'.

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