

Lesson: “Jesus Lived With Passion”

Theme:

To assist teens to understand that Jesus, our Wayshower demonstrated four strengths that helped him live triumphantly, Poise, Perspective, Passion and Power. This lesson is on “Passion”.

(by Jo Horn)

Intention:

Jesus calls us to live a passion-filled life being open to a mission and to God’s will and guidance. To recognize our highest gifts and practice it and encourage others to the same. Jesus perfectly understood His divine nature, demonstrated His divine potential, and completely fulfilled His divine purpose on earth.

Pre-session Activity:

Have music playing, and encourage teens to talk especially if there are any new teens in the group/or create your own activity.

Welcome:

Opening Circle-Have everyone say their name and an experience they have had this week.

Prayer:

Read the Daily Word for the day. (Could also read Unity Statement of Being)

Unity Statement of Being

God is All, both visible and invisible

One presence, one mind, one power is All

This One that is All,

Is perfect Life, perfect Love and perfect Substance

I am an individualized expression of God,

I am ever one with this perfect Life, Perfect Love and Perfect Substance.

Bible Verse:

Read Luke Chapter 12, versus 49-53. In these strange and unsettling words, Jesus revealed that his coming often results in conflict. He seeks a response and close groups can be torn apart when some choose to follow him and others refuse to do so. Loyalties must be declared and commitments made, sometimes to the severing of other relationships. We follow with commitment and passion and manifest our own Christ potential.

Affirmation:

My life is up to me. Life provides the canvas; I do the painting!

Introduce Topic

In the dictionary “Passion” is defined as a strong desire, fondness, enthusiasm for something, compelling emotion.

So what does it mean to live your life with passion? Passion is a stirring inside of us, the life force moving us to action. Jesus said “My very nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent me and for finishing his work” – John 4:34. These words reflected a longing that came from deep within, a calling that was not a mere job description but the mission flowing in his veins. Jesus used passion and focus and locked onto his destiny. He kept God’s will and mission for his life always in view, and refused to let the pull and distractions and attractions of the world cause him to lose sight of his target. Jesus was a carpenter and probably a very good one. Up until the time he was 30 years old, he worked with his father, he studied Scripture he prayed and meditated and prepared himself for what he knew was his to do. He realized his gift was to be a teacher and healer. He was in touch with his vision and mission and kept at it with a deep passion and focus.

Jesus was certain about his destiny but how many of us know ours. There is a divine destiny for us all—if we will be bold enough to believe it and go searching for it. More times than we realize God wants for us the very things that we deeply desire within our hearts yet are too timid to ask. We change our focus or else have no focus. Jesus often asked people, “What do you want?” The ones who answered him got what they asked for. Jesus didn’t feel it was his job to “guess” about people’s desires. If there is something that comes gracefully and naturally and easily to you, it is probably a gift. Nurture and encourage it and make room for it in your life. “Follow your heart” is always good advice when it comes to discovering your highest gift. Can you imagine what this world would be like if everyone who had the gift of music, sang...if all artists were truly free to paint...if dancers were encouraged to dance, rather than take a desk job? Look deep within yourself, find your gift and be passionately committed to it.

Nelson Mandela did not become a leader for black freedom merely because he was handsome or charismatic. He forged his influence across the world by marking time in jail cells and walking down lonely roads. For more than twenty years he sat in prison, refusing to compromise his commitment to freedom—because he believed it was not just an issue for himself, but for all people.

Georgia O’Keeffe’s had a passionate commitment to her art. She was so committed to her painting that she spent six months a year alone out in the desert where she could “better see the colors”. The line to see her exhibition in Los Angeles wrapped two times around the building. What would we have missed if Georgia O’Keeffe had not had a passionate commitment to her cause? What if she had spent her time succumbing to social demands? Georgia O’Keeffe was a leader among artists around the world. She honored her commitment to the expression of beauty.

Possible Questions for Discussion

- If Jesus was here right now and asked you “What do you want?”, how would you answer?
- What do you love to do? Or maybe, what would you love to do?
- Jesus calls us to live a passion-filled life. What do you think this means?
- What does being passionately committed to your spiritual growth mean to you?
- What do you think your “gift” is?
- Can you relate to the statement, “My life is God’s gift to me, what I do with it is my gift to God”?
- Why do you think it might be important to create a vision for ourselves?
- How do you think the following Chinese Proverb works in your life:
“Better to return and make a net, than to go down to the stream and merely wish for fish”.

Love Offering:

“Divine Love through me Blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give and all that I receive.”

Meditation

Let the sounds invite you to be present. All sounds you hear invite you into this moment. Focus on your breathing.....each time you inhale, feel your energy.....each time you inhale, settle into yourself.....let yourself reside in the quiet of your own being.....feel your energy.....feel peace as you settle into being present.....Breathe in calm.....breath out calm.....let this peaceful energy wash through you as you breath.....appreciate that you can feel, sense, imagine, vision.....acknowledge that everything begins with a vision. Vision, choice and action combine and change manifests.....expect that more and more of your vision moves into reality......imagine specifically how your life begins to shift.....change happens.....eventually you will find that your vision and your experience are one and the same.....Expect it.....bring the future into the present, imagine your vision has already come about.....what would that feel like for your vision to be right here right now.....Now your vision is your guiding light.....walk the path it illuminates.....learn the lessons it offers.....and it becomes your experience....our divine self is calling us to grow, to expand our horizons.....by fanning small sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.....desire the love, peace, joy and harmony of the kingdom of God and God’s will for everyone above all else.....(take time in the silence).....I invite you to return

Just for Fun!!

(Activities you can use anytime)

Open or Closed

Have teens sit in a circle and pass around a book or a pair of scissors. When the object is passed, each person announces whether he is passing it “open” or “closed.” For example, he might say, “I received it (open or closed) and I am passing it (open or closed). The leader then informs the person whether he is right or wrong. The idea is to learn the “secret”, which is this: If your legs are crossed, you must pass the object closed. If your legs are uncrossed, you must pass the object open. It sounds simple, but really is hard to figure out, which makes for a fun game.

Whopper

Fun game that helps people get to know each other better. Each person gets a sheet of paper and a pencil. At the top of the page, he writes four statements about himself. One of the statements must be true: the other three must be false. The true statement should be a “little known fact” that no one would know about until now.

Now the games really begins. One at a time each person reads those four statements and everyone else tries to guess which one is true. The correct answer is not given until everyone has guessed. There’s no scoring in this, it is just for fun!

Why and Because

Give everyone in the group a pencil and a 3 x 5 card. Have them write out a question beginning with the word “why”. Then have everyone write out answers on cards that begin with “because” and collect them. Redistribute them at random and have kids read the questions they receive along with the answer. The results will be hilarious.

Balloon Golf

This game is good in a small game room and also outdoors when there is no wind. First, drop a penny or smooth rock into each round balloon. Then blow the balloon up to about a five or six inch diameter. Golf clubs are made by rolling a full sheet of newspaper into a stick. Cardboard boxes are used as the holes, with the par for each hole written on the side of the box. The weight inside the balloon creates a “Mexican jumping bean” effect, causing both difficulty and hilarity for the participants.

Clothespin Challenge

This is a simple game for teams of two. Each team must sit in chairs facing each other with their knees touching. Each person is shown a large pile of clothespins at the right of their chair. They are then blindfolded and given two minutes to pin as many clothespins as possible on the pant legs of the other contestant.

Another way to play this is to divide the group into pairs and give each person six clothespins. Each person then tries to hang all his pins on his partner. The winners then pair off again and again until there is a champion clothespinner.

Musical Backs

This is similar to musical chairs and other elimination games. Teens are to mill about the room and when the music stops, everyone must quickly find another person and stand back to back. When there are an odd number of people on the floor, someone will not have a partner, and he is eliminated from the game. Then there is an even number of people playing, a chair is placed in their midst and anyone may sit in it and be safe. Every other round, the chair will need to be removed. Make a rule that everyone must keep moving and players may not pair off with the same person twice in a row.

Spoon Relay

Each player holds a plastic spoon in his mouth. The leader places a marble in the spoon of each of the players at the head of the line and it is passed from spoon to spoon until it reaches the end of the line. The team that gets their marble to the end of the line first is the winner.

Sucker Relay

Each person has a paper straw. A piece of paper about 4 inches square is packed up by sucking on the straw and is carried around a goal and back. If you drop the paper, you must start over.

Waddle Relay

In this relay, teams race with players carrying a small coin between their knees. They must successfully drop the coin into a container placed fifteen or twenty feet away without using their hands. If the coin is dropped along the way, the player must start over.