



- Describe someone you know who is truly passionate about something in their life. How has that passion shaped the way they live their life?
- Do you feel you are more passionate about Christ this year than last year? Why or why not?

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:14-16 (NIV)

10 characteristics of a lukewarm Christian:

1. Crave acceptance from people more than acceptance from God.
2. Make Jesus a part of their lives, but only a part.
3. Value security more than they value faith.
4. Rarely share their faith in Christ.
5. Interested spiritual knowledge but not spiritual fruit.
6. Do whatever it takes to alleviate their guilt.
7. Think more about life on earth than eternity in heaven.
8. Gauge their morality by comparing themselves to others.
9. Want to be saved from the penalty of sin without changing their lives.
10. Only turn to God when they are in a bind.

11. Give whenever it doesn't hinder their standard of living.
12. Want to be served, but don't want to serve.
13. Love others but not as much as themselves.
14. Are not much different from the rest of the world.
15. Want the benefits of what Christ did without conforming to who He is.
 - Why are we sometimes more passionate about our relationships with other people than we are about our relationship with God?
 - What are some of the distractions in your life you feel are keeping you more focused on temporary life rather than on eternal life?
 - In looking at this list of characteristics, are there any you can identify with? Why or why not?

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked... Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:17, 20 (NIV)

- What are some specific things you can start doing today that will help deepen your passion for Christ?

Final thought: Take time this week to pray that God will instill a deeper fire and passion for Him in your life.

1 More Thing –Group Ministry Activity

God is calling you not to do 1 million things, 1,000 things, or even 100 things. He is calling you to do one more thing. This week do that one more thing with your group by ministering to your community. Feel free to come up with your own project even if it takes a few weeks to complete. If you are unsure of a way to minister to your community, then consider doing the following activity this week with your group.

Giving Thanks

This week plan to do something nice for those who protect and serve your community at your local police station, fire station or hospital emergency room. Your group can either cook something to take to them or your group can buy some food such as donuts, pizza, cookies, coffee or other snacks to take. If you do not want to take food, have your group come up with something creative that they can either make or purchase to take.

Tools Needed for Activity:

1. Ingredients for whatever your group decides to cook
2. Extra money if you decide to buy something.
3. Vehicles to travel to the police station, fire station or emergency room.

Here are some things to consider while carrying out your ministry activity:

1. Make sure your group all goes together to give your gifts of appreciation. The journey of going together is just as important as your act of service.
2. We do not want groups all going to the same place; therefore consider driving to stations or hospitals that are outside your immediate neighborhood. You might consider taking your gift to stations or hospitals in inner city areas because those that work in the inner city deserve our greatest appreciation.
3. If the station or hospital you go to is really busy at the time of your visit, be considerate of their work and time and make your visit as short as possible.

4. Make sure to take a few moments to tell those that work at whatever station or hospital you go to thank you for their service and why you are bringing them your gift of appreciation. If they are not busy at the time of your visit, take some time to visit and minister to them.

Group Wrap Up:

Take a few moments to discuss your experience and what you may have learned. Pray for those that work at the police station, fire station or hospital that you visited. Pray for any needs that your group may have.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How do people typically react when they meet a celebrity or famous athlete? Why do you think these are typical reactions?

Explore

Read John 12:12-19.

- What had the crowd heard about Jesus? (12:12)
- How did the crowd greet Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem? (12:13)
- What title did the crowd give to Jesus? (12:13)
- What prophetic event took place in this account? (12:14-15)
- What had been written about this event? (12:15)
- When did Jesus' disciples realize the significance of these events? (12:16)
- What did the crowd do when Jesus raised Lazarus? (12:17)
- Why did many of the people go out to meet Jesus? (12:18)
- How did the Pharisees react to this event? (12:19)

Reflect

- What did you hear about Jesus that led you to seek Him?
- Why do you think Jesus should be the ruler in our lives?

- When is it difficult for you to allow Jesus to take His rightful place as King in your life?
- In what ways can we honor and worship Jesus as King?
- What are some practical ways we can earn the opportunity to discuss our relationship with Christ with others?

Apply

- How does your passion about Christ compare with the passion the crowds exhibited in this passage?
- What specific areas of your life can your surrender to Christ that will result in a stronger passion for Him?