

“Passionate Devotion”

Becoming the People God Wants Us to Be #1

INTRODUCTION

As Christians we have been offered the greatest gift, from the hand of an incredibly loving God through a genuine relationship with Him who gave everything for us! In light of this we have every reason to have and display a Passionate Devotion to our Savior. In this study, we will consider how that devotion is birthed and deepened in our lives.

Ice Breaker (Optional): When we think of passionate devotion what is the first thing that comes to mind; sports teams, rock bands political rallies? Has there been anything in your life that ignited a passion in you?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Our Devotion Begins with a Response

Q1. Read Matthew 4:19-20; Luke 5:4-5; Luke 9:1-6

Our devotion to God is birthed when we begin our relationship with Him. But it doesn't end there. These verses illustrate three phases of our spiritual journey; “come & see”, “trust & believe”, and “go & do”. Can you think of an example where God has called you to each of these? In which of these phases do you find yourself currently most challenged by God?

Our Devotion Deepens with Understanding

Q2. Read Colossians 1:12, Luke 9:18-20, Isaiah 9:6

As we begin to comprehend everything that God has done for us, our devotion to Him will naturally increase. What does Colossians 1:12 tell us Christ has rescued us from and to? Ultimately we all must answer the question posed by Jesus in Luke 9:20. Take a moment in your group to share one of the names of God you find most powerful, then as a group stop to offer praise together, declaring those powerful names – Almighty God, The Lamb of God, the Coming King....Jesus.

Our Devotion Costs Our Lives

Q3. Read Romans 12:1, Luke 9:23-24

If we are truly devoted to God, we will be willing to offer our lives to His service. How do Romans 12:1 and Luke 9:23-24 state this? What

area of your life might you “deny yourself” so that you can follow Him with greater devotion? What might be preventing you from doing so?

Our Devotion Prepares Us for Ministry

Q4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15; Hebrews 13:21; 1 Peter 4:2

God has placed us on earth for a purpose: His purpose. When we are passionately devoted and willing to serve Him, God will use us. These verses tell us we are not to live for ourselves alone, but for Him. Share with your group the type of ministry you feel God would like to use you in. If God has already used you in that ministry, how do you feel it impacted your level of devotion? If you don't know how God wants to use you, prayer that He will show you and provide new opportunities for you to serve Him.

WRAP-UP

Being Passionately Devoted to God begins with a response to His call for us to “come and see”, “trust and believe”, and “go and do”. The more we understand about who God is and what He has done, the more our devotion will increase. Ultimately our devotion to God will cost us our lives, and when we completely give God our lives, He will use us in ministry for His purposes.

Memory Verse

Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs:

Challenge: Commit one daily act of devotion to God this week that reflects a growing passion for Him.

Q1. Matthew 4:19-20 ESV - 19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

Luke 5:4-6 ESV - 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.

Luke 9:1-6 ESV - 1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. 3 And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. 4 And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. 5 And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." 6 And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Q 2. Colossians 1:12-14 ESV - 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 9:18-20 ESV - 18 Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" 19 And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." 20 Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

Isaiah 9:6 ESV - 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Q 3. Romans 12:1 ESV - 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Luke 9:23-24 ESV - 23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Q4. Our Devotion Prepares Us for Ministry

2 Corinthians 5:15 ESV - 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Hebrews 13:21 ESV - 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:2 ESV - 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Prayers Con't: _____

