

WEEK 1 – GETTING STARTED

Objectives

- Help participants get to know each other
- Explain how the group will work and introduce materials
- Recruit group members to help with tasks in the group
- Introduce the first topic

Materials Needed

1. Daily Devotional Guides for all participants
2. Spare pens or pencils
3. DVD and something to play it on or access to the online video file
4. Refreshments (if desired)
5. Prayer notebook (if desired)

Welcome

- Welcome everyone as they come in
- Simple refreshments like a hot drink, cookies, etc can help break the ice

Relate

Note: You'll want to spend more time on this segment during this first week

- Have people introduce themselves by sharing their name, where they were born, and their favorite type of shoe and why they like it.
- Invite people to share prayer requests

Note: You may want to start a simple prayer journal. See if there is a volunteer who would be willing to record items in the prayer journal. This would be a great way to get one of the participants involved.

- Pray over requests.

Note: It is best if you as the leader pray this week. In later weeks, you can use different styles of participatory prayer as members get comfortable with each other.

Remember

- Hand out Daily Devotional Guides and go through how they will work.

Reflect

- Share some of the small group experiences you've been in before. What did you like about them?
- What interested you about this small group on A Passionate Life?
- Some people are, by nature it seems, more passionate than others. What comes to mind when you picture a passionate person? How do you feel about expressing passion?
- What would you say are the outward signs of spiritual passion? On a scale of 1-10 how passionate is the spiritual community you participate in.
- What is your first reaction to the statement, "Jesus was a passionate person."

Review

- What do you hope to gain out of studying this topic?
- What risks might there be in exploring how to live a more passionate life? What benefits might be big enough to outweigh the risks?

Reconnoiter

- Point people to the DVD notes section in their Daily Devotional Guide
- Show the video for week 1 – Stepping Into the Learning Circle
- Field any questions about next week.
Note: You may want to see if anyone is willing to provide refreshments for next week. Emphasize that refreshments should be simple. If people start getting elaborate, others will think they can't compete and won't volunteer.
- Close with prayer