

**Different
Small Group Questions
10.14.18**

Getting Started:

Apart from Jesus, what would people say you are really passionate about?

Digging Deeper

The Big Idea: You have many callings in your life. Though some of them are really tough, all of them require zeal/fervency to fulfill them. Human passion is not enough to fulfill them. We need a deeper passion from God. Paul talks about this deeper passion and shares what will either fuel it or smother it.

- 1) Every person has multiple “callings.” What are “callings”? Give some examples.
- 2) Have each person put the following in their own word: *“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in the Lord.”* Give your group a few minutes to write their paraphrase down.
- 3) After Paul challenges us to be fervent in the Lord (lit. boil for God), he provides ways to promote this passion: *serve the Lord, rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and constant in prayer.* On Sunday, we looked at these points negatively: what will kill your passion for God. Work through the points below.

Being unclear about who we are serving: Are we serving God?

- a) If you are serving people, you can become a slave to their approval. Give some examples. Discuss how this might kill the conviction and passion you need to love them the ways that God wants you to (e.g., when God wants you to say “no” to them).
- b) Paul tells us to “serve the Lord” in verse 11. He gives us an example in Colossians 3:22-24 of what it looks like to serve God in a really tough circumstance. What does his instruction tell you about situations you find yourself in?

Thinking that we’re not making a difference: Are we rejoicing in hope?

- a) Often we lose passion because we don’t feel we are making a difference. Give everyday examples of when you don’t feel like you are making a difference and want to give up.
- b) Sometimes we lose passion because we don’t believe that God can do amazing things with our “unfruitful” efforts. Why is this a natural struggle?

- c) Paul tells us to rejoice in hope. Hope looks to the future. Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and discuss how God's plans for eternity makes our little efforts now significant?

Trusting in our strength: Are we patient and prayerful?

- a) We sometimes lose our passion and want to give up because "we can't do it." What do Paul's words here tell us about what we are feeling?
- b) Prayer is just another way of saying, "I can't do this." What should the phrase "Be constant in prayer" suggest about our everyday life?

Making It Real

Share with the group a calling that you are sometimes overwhelmed by. Take time praying for each other.

Truth • Character • Community • Mission