



## The Passion For Greatness WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Difference Maker*, we will focus on the fuel of greatness—passion.

### DISCUSSION

Jesus says in **Matthew 11:11**: ***“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist, but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John.”*** Jesus is saying, “As great as John was, you, too, can be great! The fuel of greatness is passion.”

- According to Matthew 11:11, how does Jesus redefine greatness?

Passion is a strong desire, a zeal, an intense emotional drive. As we have been learning, God’s called us to be a Difference Maker. But to run the race, we need fuel—which is passion. God not only gives us the vision and the gifts to make a difference, but also the passion to make a difference. The pursuit of greatness and the desire to make a difference only comes to those that passionately pursue it. While lust is the desire for self-pleasure, godly passion is the desire to serve and help others. Both pull from deep emotion inside of us but are just directed differently. God wants us to focus our desire on Him and helping others.

- How does the message describe the relationship between passion and greatness?
- What is the distinction between godly passion and negative passion, such as lust?

In **John 2:13-16**, we learn that Jesus was a man of great, deep passion. His passion moved Him to action. It compelled Him to stand up for what was right—regardless of the opposition. Jesus was powerful, passionate, and intentional. And He still is today.

- How does the portrayal of Jesus in the temple challenge the misconception of Him as passive? How can understanding His passionate actions impact our perception of Him and our own pursuit of greatness?

### Four Truths About Passion:

1. Great passion begins with a great vision of God.

When we have an encounter with God, something supernatural happens inside of us. As a result, a great passion is ignited in our life. Passion without God becomes an emotional stirring that is short lasting. But when you come out of the presence of God, there's a passion in your heart that's long-lasting because the source is not you—it's God. When you get into the presence of God, you change, and a fire is stirred in your soul.

- What happens within us when we have an encounter with God? How does this encounter lead to the ignition of passion in our lives?
  - Share instances where you've witnessed the difference between passion rooted in God and passion based solely on emotions.
2. Great passion comes from being connected to God's purpose.  
Great passion grows as we're locked into God's purpose. Passion is the first step towards achievement. Your desire determines your destiny. The stronger your fire, the greater the desire. If we are to be a people of passion, we must be connected to purpose.
- Why is it important to be "locked into God's purpose" to experience growing and lasting passion? How does being connected to God's purpose provide a foundation that sustains and deepens passion over time?
3. Great passion requires right priorities.  
If we have the right passion and the wrong priorities, we can still fail. Two priorities for maintaining passion:
- a. You must become people of prayer and the Word.  
**Acts 6:4: "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."**
  - b. You got to be around the right people.  
**Proverbs 13:20: Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.**
- How can we ensure our passions are directed toward the right goals?
  - What are some practical ways we can engage in God's Word and prayer on a regular basis?
  - Give an example of how godly relationships have impacted your life. How can we grow deeper in our godly relationships?
4. Great passion is focused on the glory of God.  
If greatness in life is focused on self, it's short-lived. But if we desire to be great for God's glory, He will bless us. **Ephesians 3:20** says, **Now unto him who's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory, to God be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus.**
- How does redirecting our passion towards bringing glory to God align with tapping into this divine potential? Share a time when you've witnessed God's abundant blessings when the focus was on His glory.

## LIFE CHALLENGE

How can you implement these principles in your life to fuel your passion and become a Difference Maker? Take time to reflect on your vision of God, your connection to God's purpose, your priorities, and your focus on God's glory. Consider specific steps you can take to cultivate and maintain a passionate pursuit of greatness in your daily life.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER