



PASSION FOR THE HARVEST

EXPERIENCING GOD'S HEARTBEAT FOR THE LOST

Teaching Objective

To challenge the people of God to fully experience God's passion for the billions who are waiting to know the life-transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God looks for men and women who share a passion for those without Christ. Jesus came to “seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). God desires that everyone be reached with the life transforming power of the Gospel.

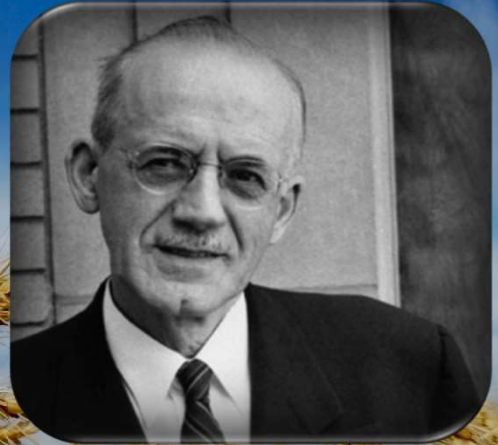
Core Value

CORE VALUE

God looks for men and women who share a passion for those without Christ. Jesus came to “seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). God desires that everyone be reached with the life-transforming power of the Gospel

“The great of the Kingdom have been those who loved God more than the others did.”

A.W. Tozer



Introduction

Intimacy with God leads to God’s heart and passion for the lost. God’s passion becomes our passion. Just as our intimacy must be continually rekindled, so must our passion. Vision is directly related to passion; when passion decreases, vision also becomes more distant and dim. A.W. Tozer once said,

“The great of the Kingdom have been those who loved God more than others did.”

All other passions build upon or flow from your passion for Jesus. A passion for souls grows out of a passion for Christ. A passion for missions builds upon a passion for Christ.¹

Passion

A glowing fist surrounded by flames, symbolizing passion and power. The fist is clenched and emits a bright yellow and orange light, with flames and sparks rising from the base. The background is dark with small, glowing particles.

Defined

Passion Defined

Passion is a force burning within you, which seizes you; a power that moves you beyond ordinary human activity. Passion will not let you go until God's goals are reached. Passion is the fire and urgency that vision needs to remain alive and active.

But if I say, “I will not mention Him or speak any more in His name,” His word is in my heart like a FIRE, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

Jeremiah 20:9

Passion
is a Fire

Biblical Foundation

Passion comes from the Latin root word *passere* which means “to suffer for.” “Passion is what you hunger for so intensely that you will sacrifice anything to have it.”² Many scriptural characters inspire us with their passion and zeal for God. The following are a few examples.

Jeremiah—Passion is a fire that comes from God and cannot be extinguished.

But if I say, “I will not mention Him or speak any more in His name,” His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. —Jeremiah 20:9

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Then they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

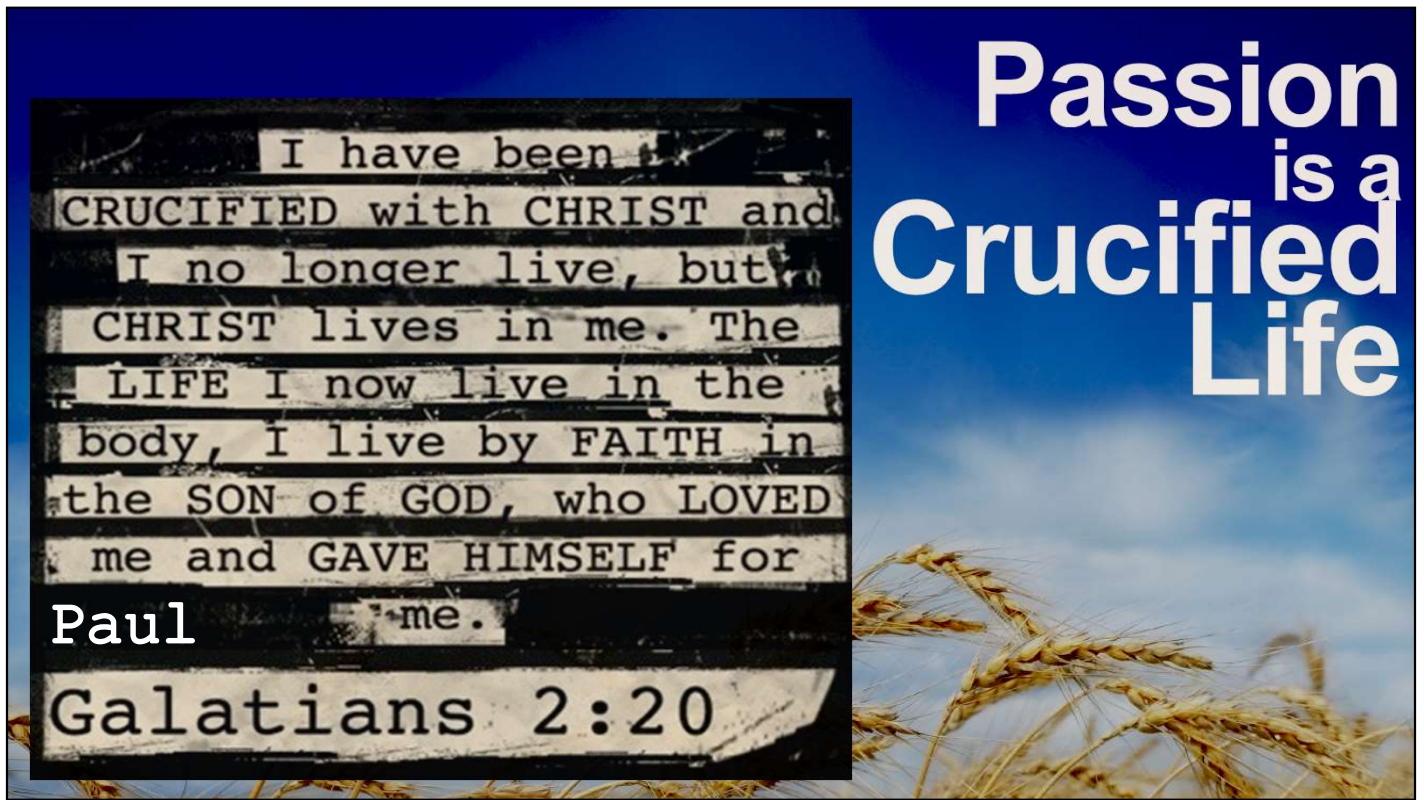
Acts 4:18-20

Passion is
a Conviction

Peter and John—Passion is a compelling conviction that demands radical obedience, even in the face of persecution.

Then they . . . commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to Him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” —Acts 4:18-20

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Paul—Passion is a crucified life lived by faith in Christ.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. —Galatians 2:20

Can you identify with Jeremiah, Peter, or Paul?

Share with one person about a time when your soul was on fire with passion and the fruit that came from that time.



Workshop

Can you identify with Jeremiah, Peter, or Paul? Share with one person about a time in your life when you knew your soul was on fire with passion. Describe the fruit that came from that experience.

“Let us all be of one
business”



Historical Examples of Passion³

Throughout the course of history, God called men and women and inspired them with a passion. Below are examples and quotes from leaders from the past. In order to make these testimonies come alive, select six participants to dramatically read one of the quotes. The facilitator serves as the narrator.

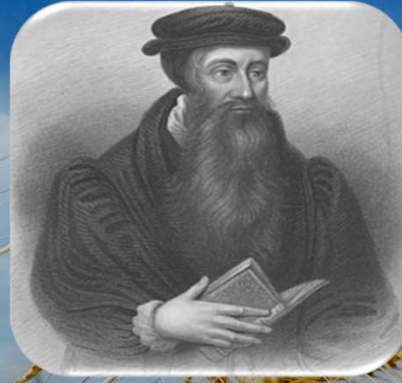
John Wesley (Leader of Revival in England)

“Let us all be of one business. We live only for this, to save our own souls and the souls of those who hear us.”

God used John Wesley to bring revival and transform England. Today, eighty million people all over the world owe their spiritual heritage to this movement.⁴

“Lord, give me Scotland or I die”

John



Knox

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John Knox (Leader of Revival in Scotland)

When John Knox's wife pleaded with him to get some sleep, he answered, ***“How can I sleep when my land is not saved?”*** He would often pray all night in agonizing tones, ***“Lord, give me Scotland or I die!”***

God shook Scotland. God gave him Scotland.

“O Lord, give me souls or
take my soul.”



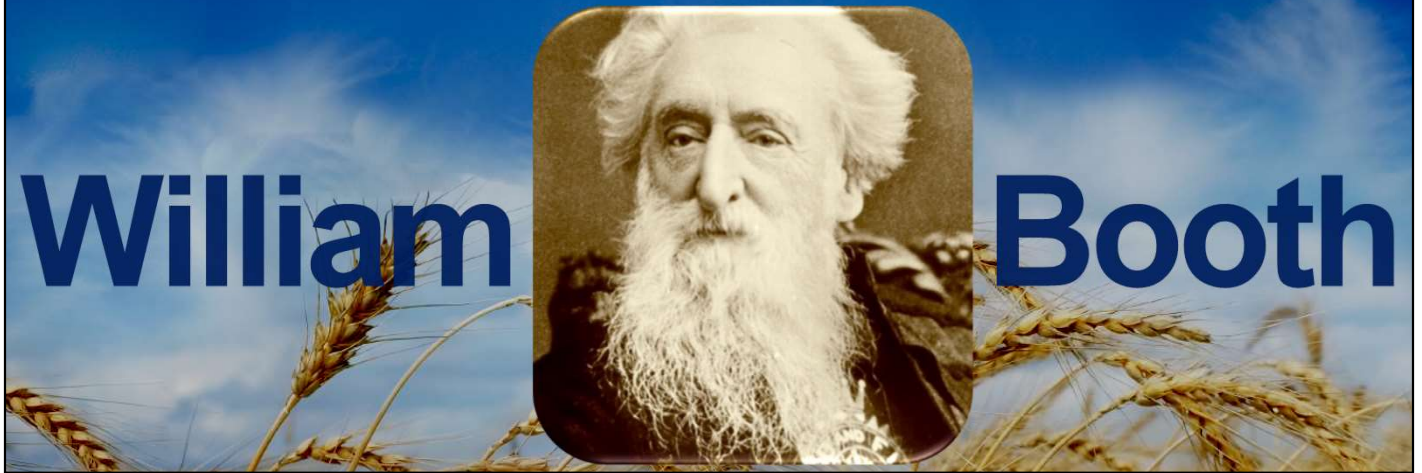
Historical Examples of Passion: George Whitefield (Eighteenth-Century British Evangelist)

George Whitefield prayed,

“O Lord, give me souls or take my soul.”

It is said that his face shone like the face of Moses when he sobbed that prayer.

“Sir, some men’s passion is for gold, other men’s passion is for fame, but my passion is for souls.”



Historical Examples of Passion: William Booth (Founder of the Salvation Army)

The King of England asked William Booth what the ruling force of his life was. Booth replied,

“Sir, some men’s passion is for gold, other men’s passion is for fame, but my passion is for souls.”

Today, the Salvation Army is one of the largest relief agencies in the world.

“I am not worthy to follow in the steps of my Lord, but like Him, I want no home, no possessions. Like Him I will belong to the road, sharing the suffering of my people, eating with those who will give me shelter, and telling all people of the love of God.”

Sadhu



**Sundar
Singh**

Historical Examples of Passion: Sadhu Sundar Singh (Indian Evangelist)

As a preacher and evangelist in colonial India, Sundar Singh was passionate about his people and his Christ. He stated:

“I am not worthy to follow in the steps of my Lord, but like him, I want no home, no possessions. Like him I will belong to the road, sharing the suffering of my people, eating with those who will give me shelter, and telling all people of the love of God.”

One of his many biographers states that “this son of India possesses a key to the hearts of his countrymen no foreigner can ever hope to have.”

“I desire to burn myself completely for Him and for souls.”



Historical Examples of Passion: Mother Teresa (Founder of the Missionaries of Charity)

On a train ride from Calcutta to Darjeeling in India, Christ spoke to Mother Teresa and asked, **“The thirst you had for souls brought you so far. Are you afraid to take one more step... for Me - for souls?”**

Mother Teresa fully surrendered to God’s call on her life and said,

“I desire to burn myself completely for Him and for souls.”

Do you not say: “Four months and then the harvest?” I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.
John 4:35



The Fields are Ripe

Passion and the Harvest

As you grow deeper in your relationship of intimacy with God, you will personally experience more of His passion for others. In Luke 19:10, Jesus proclaims that He came to “seek and to save the lost.” God desires that everyone be reached with the life-transforming power of the Gospel. Just as Jesus sought lost people when He walked on earth, still today He seeks the lost, and we are His messengers. Jesus’ passion should be our passion. He referred to those living without a relationship with God as “the harvest.” Several times, Jesus spoke regarding “the harvest.”

The Fields Are Ripe for Harvest

Jesus states that the harvest is ready. Many people are willing to listen to the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When He [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

Matthew 9:36–38



The Workers are Few

The Harvest is Plentiful, but the Workers are Few

Jesus challenges His disciples by telling them that more workers are needed to bring in the harvest. Jesus also invites you to join Him in the harvest.

When He [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” —Matthew 9:36–38

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion. The word compassion literally means *to suffer together*. If we look at the world with Jesus’ eyes, we will also see human needs and our hearts will be moved to action with the same compassion.

Over two billion...



Thank you Jesus

The Harvest Field

The population of planet Earth has now surpassed seven billion people. The Church has been in existence and sharing the Good News of Christ for two thousand years. Yet currently, only one third of the global population has responded positively to the claims of the Gospel. Currently, the global harvest looks approximately like this:

- More than two billion are followers of Christ, a figure that includes all the different Christian denominations and groups. These people are saying,

“Thank you, Jesus.”

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Over **two billion...**



The Harvest Field

More than two billion are non-Christians who have access to the Gospel, but they are not following Christ. They live where they can hear, learn, and respond to the Gospel but they are not yet following Christ. These people are saying,

“No thank you Jesus.”

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The Harvest Field

More than two Billion remain unreached. They have little or no access to the Gospel. They have no Christian-influence in their lives, no churches in their communities, and often no Bible in their languages. These people are saying,

“Who is Jesus?”



The Great Harvest

We live in one of the most exciting periods in God's salvation history. Patrick Johnstone, author of *Operation World*, states, "We are living in the time of the largest ingathering of people into the Kingdom of God that the world has ever seen."

During the twentieth century, the world population has multiplied 3.7 times. The percentage of Christians in North America has remained about the same. In Europe, Christians have not kept pace with the population, growing only 1.5 times. However in Asia, there are 15 times more Christians than 100 years ago, and in Africa, there are 38 times more Christians.

Slide 20

- 2 Suggestion. Don't include the data in these slides, just the header, like: GLOBAL CONVERSION RATE and the chart.

Norival Trindade, 1/4/2013



The Great Harvest

There are 2.3 billion people who claim to be Christians in the world

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5 Million Churches



The Great Harvest

There are 5 million churches worldwide.

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43,000 Christian Denominations



The Great Harvest

There are 43,000 Christian denominations.

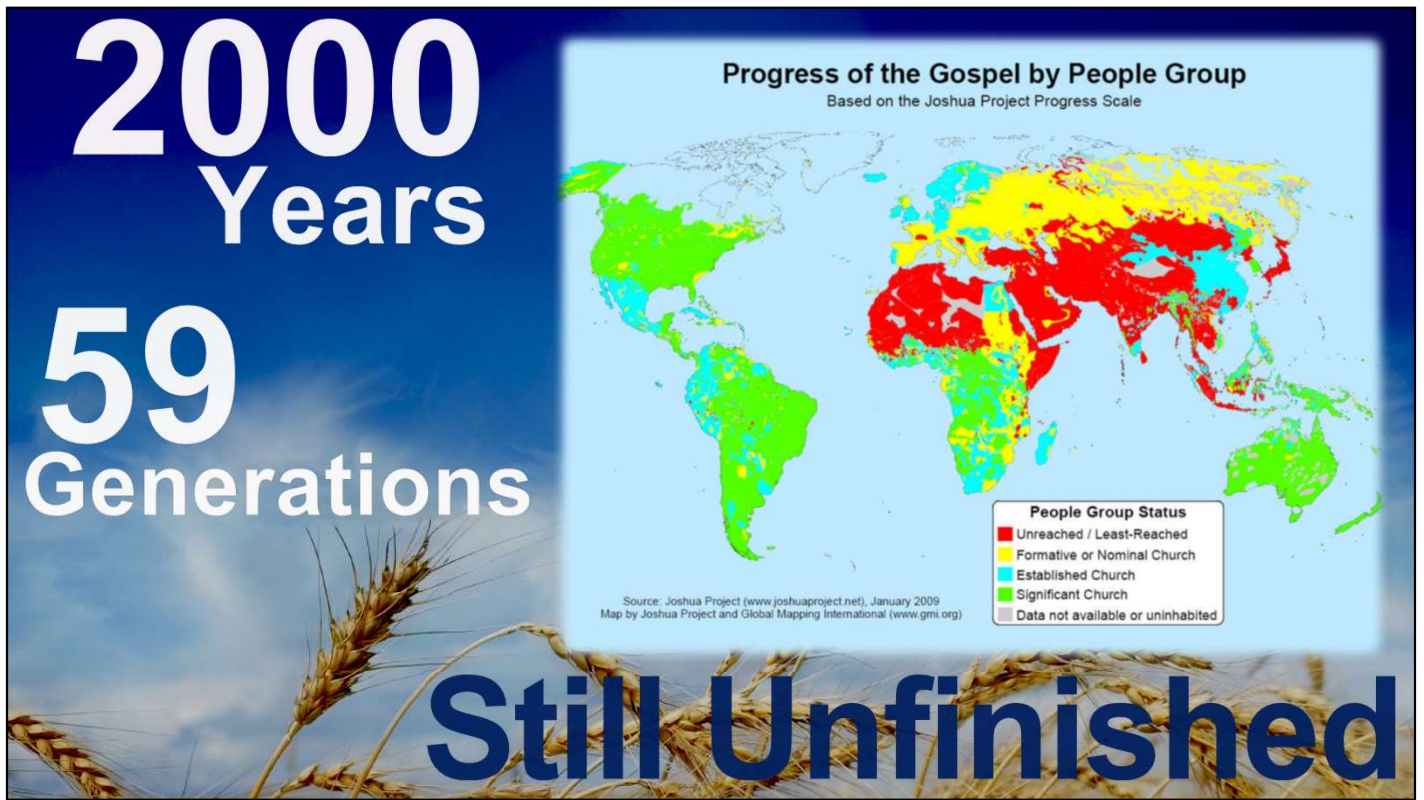
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12 Million Christian Workers



The Great Harvest

There are 12 million Christian workers engaged in the ministry of the Church.



At the same time, 2,000 years and 59 generations after the Great Commission, the Gospel still hasn't been taken to "every nation" as Jesus commanded. The Church of Jesus Christ faces some formidable challenges.

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