

Developing a Passion For the Lost

Instructor's Guide

**Evangelism Resources
USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Department
Church of the Nazarene, International**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DEVELOPING A PASSION FOR THE UNCHURCHED

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

MODULE AT A GLANCE

SECTION	TIME	PAGE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
I. Module Introduction	5 mins.	5	·Introduce module, objectives, outline.
II. Lecture	25 mins.	6	·Facilitator shares ways to increase the passion for the unchurched in your own heart
III. Small Group Activity	25 mins.	12	·Facilitator leads discussion of ways to increase passion in your heart.
IV. Module Wrap-up	5 mins.		·Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.
Total Module Time: 60 mins.			

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PREPARATION CHECKLIST

The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.

- Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- Check to insure the following materials are available:
 - Powerpoint presentations/transparencies (transparency masters can be produced from the Powerpoint slides)
 - participant booklet (copy as needed)
- Gather the following materials, as needed:
 - transparency markers
 - pens &/or pencils
 - other material you want to use
- Make copies of the following material (one for each participant):
 - participant booklet
 - handouts (if used with this module)
- Check the classroom for:
 - TV/VCR (if necessary)
 - overhead projector
 - chalkboard or flip chart
 - sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants.



Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

Your instructor's material contains the following icons:



Special instructions or suggestions



Time suggestions



PowerPoint Presentation with its corresponding number

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I. MODULE INTRODUCTION (5 Minutes)



Distribute Participant Material

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- purpose
- objectives
- “fill in the blanks” for the lecture
- application exercises

PPT #6,
Slide #1

The purpose of this module is to help us discover and experience practical steps we as believers can take to increase the passion in our hearts for those who are unchurched.

The objectives for this module are:

- Share practical steps we can take to increase our own passion for those who don't yet know Christ.*

Review the process for this module

- Introduction..... 5 mins.
- Lecture 25 mins.
- Small Group Activity..... 25 mins.
- Module Wrap-up..... 5 mins.

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PPT #6,
Slide #2

Ask the participants to write the answer to the following question in their participant material:

On a scale of one to ten, how would you rate your personal concern for the condition of the unchurched people living near you?

II. LECTURE (30 Minutes)

Introduction

Having found Christ at an early age, Ryan, a teenager, wanted to do just what God desired. Having heard his pastor talk about the importance of telling others about Jesus, he longed to share the Good News and see people come to Christ. But how? Talking to his high school classmates about Jesus was tough. When he tried, some made fun of him. Others tried to argue. After early attempts seemed to backfire, he feared speaking up even more. He seemed not to get anywhere with this witnessing thing. No one seemed willing to listen.

But knowing he needed to witness and others needed Christ, he came up with a new idea. He would carry tracts telling about Jesus in his school notebook. And when no one was around, he would leave these small pamphlets on the sink in the restrooms. He figured others would find and read the tracts, and then turn to Christ. So, in his eagerness to win others to Christ, he tried his new plan.

This method proved not to be a raging success. As a matter of fact, many times, Ryan returned only to find the tracts either water-soaked or scattered on the dirty floor. No one was being helped by his efforts. Mostly, the tracts were being wasted.

This story isn't being told to discuss or debate the effectiveness of various methods of telling others about Jesus. Rather, Ryan's efforts highlight the concern this teen had for those who did not yet know Jesus. He wanted to tell others. He wanted his classmates to find Jesus. He wanted to do good. He was trying. He had a passion for those who did not know Jesus.

And despite the weaknesses of his feeble attempts at witnessing, what this teen was doing was far more than some ever have. We have all heard messages and read Scripture that calls us to the mission of reaching out to those who don't yet know Jesus. We may be inclined to mentally assign this responsibility to others who surely know

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better than we about how to share Christ effectively. We excuse ourselves from the effort.

And like the teen in our story, sometimes we do try, but become discouraged when our efforts to tell others about Christ seem to fall flat.

This all leads to one question: *How can we ignite a passion for the unchurched in our own heart?* How can we raise the temperature of our concern enough to cause us to break loose from our unwillingness even to try? Here are a few things that may help.

PPT #6,
Slide #3

To ignite a passion for the unchurched in us, here are three things we can all do...

PPT #6,
Slide #4

1. We can move closer to our Master.

Imagine preparing the grill for your Fourth of July picnic. You arrange the charcoal, spray lighter fluid on the briquettes and ignite the fire. Noticing a couple of pieces of charcoal have separated from your carefully constructed pile, you see the need for attention. Off to the side, they neither heat, nor contribute to the cause of cooking your steaks. Off to the side, they are useless. To get them involved in the cooking process, they've got to be moved to the heat. Move them back to the center and their whole character changes. Near the heat, they take on the characteristics of the other briquettes. They get hot. And they become useful. They cook!

There's similarity between those charcoal briquettes and believers. Get too far away from our Lord Jesus and the fire of our commitment cools. Losing that warmth, we contribute little toward the mission of winning those who don't yet know Jesus. In our cooled-off condition, (the Lord calls it "luke-warmness," Revelation 3:16), we just don't focus on the mission. Most often, our vision goes no further than our own interests. But, move us closer to our Lord, and the whole situation changes. We come to life. The fire of His passion for the lost warms our heart. Instead of focusing on ourselves, we start feeling compassion for those apart from Christ and begin to genuinely care about them. For us to possess a passion for those who don't yet know Jesus, we simply must move closer to the Lord.

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PPT #6, Slide #5

2. We can understand the difference between “fire-fighters” and “firelighters.”

“Fire-fighters” are those people who tend to extinguish the flames of our passion. They are the critics, the complainers. They are the negative people who can never see anything good. They are the fault-finders whose fingers are quickly pointed at the flaws of those around them.

Hear about the father and son taking their donkey to the market? The man sat on the back of the animal while the boy walked. People along the way said, “What a terrible thing, a big strong fellow sitting on the donkey’s back while the youngster has to walk.” So the father, feeling a bit of guilt, dismounted and the son took his place. Soon onlookers remarked, “How terrible, this man walking and the little boy sitting.” At that, they both got on the donkey’s back—only to hear animal rights advocates complain, “How cruel, two people crushing one poor donkey.” Off they came. But other bystanders quickly commented, “How crazy! The donkey is carrying nothing and two people are walking.” Finally, trying to please the crowd, the exasperated father and son tried carrying the donkey! They never did make it to the market.

The father and son found that “fire-fighters” are everywhere. These people can quickly suck the oxygen from your soul. Instead of building you up, they are adept at tearing you down. Hang around “fire-fighters” and you will soon find your frustration increasing and your own passion cooling.

On the other hand, “fire-lighters” fan the flames of godly passion in our heart. They are the encouragers, the helpers, the cooperative supporters whose actions and words of appreciation inspire us to move ahead. Their willingness to see the good in us lifts our spirits. Their “thank you” brightens our day. Spend time around “fire-lighters” and we discover we are better than we thought! Our commitment is warmed by their enthusiasm and encouragement.

John Maxwell writes, “I have yet to find a person who did not do better work and put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism. Encouragement is the oxygen of the soul.” (John C. Maxwell, *Developing the Leader Within You*, 107)

A woman traveling in the west and enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery rounded a curve and was surprised to see the

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road ahead seemed to end in the face of the mountain. The road narrowed to one lane and as she drove closer, she saw a sliver of an opening into a tunnel. The passage was so narrow it looked impossible to drive through without scraping the rock walls. Then, she saw a hand-lettered sign scrawled on the right of the tunnel entrance. The message had been left by someone who had passed that way before. It proclaimed simply, “*Yes, you can.*”

Everyone needs people who will tell us, “*Yes, you can.*” We need those who believe in us, who encourage, challenge and inspire us to accomplish more than we would otherwise attempt. We need “fire-lighters.”

To raise the temperature of our passion for the unchurched, find encouragers, people who will support and lift you. Find people who believe in you. Keep a file of encouraging letters and comments. (There will be days when you will need to read them.)

A bank examiner, once a tall gangly teenager in the church youth group, e-mailed his youth minister fifteen years later. He wrote,

“...I’ve been heavily involved with youth ministry for about the last ten years and just this year began serving in the leadership of Bible Study Fellowship. The more I’ve grown over the years, the more I’ve realized that serving in ministry really is a privilege. ... My thinking of you brought back a flood of memories from my ‘younger years,’ and particularly the impact you had on my life. I’m truly and eternally grateful you introduced me to Jesus Christ. Not that life has been perfect since then (it seldom is), but I can’t imagine living without the hope, joy and eternal security that comes from that relationship. Who knows what my life would look like right now if I had not met Jesus? Having worked with kids a fair amount over the years, I know full well what a pain they can be. When I think about that further, it makes me all the more appreciate those (such as yourself) who fed into my life at that age. Thank you for your patience and faithfulness to plant and harvest seed in my life. My life will never be the same.”

In Christ,

John”

The youth minister rejoiced when he read the e-mail. Appreciation raises our spirits. Others’ success causes us to

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celebrate. To know ministry can be multiplied in the next generation keeps us plugging. Encouragement, even from the past, increases enthusiasm.

Hang around people who will say by their words and actions, “I believe in you.” “You are doing great!” “Keep up the good work!” “Yes, you can.” “I appreciate you.” When you find and draw around you these supporting people, be their encourager, as well. You will discover both they and you become better in the process.

PPT #6,
Slide #6

3. We can learn about passionate people and let their examples inspire us.

“People with a purpose”—that’s the kind of people who can inspire us. The Bill Gates of our world, who because of his vision and commitment, built a company called Microsoft that is the controlling giant in the software business. Lee Iacocca, with nerve and commitment, brought the failing, nearly-bankrupt Chrysler Corporation back to solvency.

I heard a story of a man who found himself in an elevator with Chrysler’s CEO. Wanting to be pleasant, he asked, “You are Lee Iacocca, are you not?” He acknowledged that he was. “Mr. Iacocca,” said Williams, “I want to tell you how much I enjoy your television commercials advertising Chrysler.” To this compliment Iacocca retorted, “Sir, I couldn’t care less what you think of my commercials. I want to know, what kind of car do you drive?”

Billy Graham, with unwavering faith and life-long persistence, has made a huge difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands. They are the people who have a commitment to excellence and they make a difference.

Focus. “People with a purpose.” Passionate people possess a clear, single-minded vision that inspires and propels them to accomplish more than expected. Passion makes ordinary people extraordinary.

Some of the examples I’ve mentioned perhaps do not share our values. Some may not be committed to the same Lord to whom we are committed. But, their drive, their enthusiasm, their perseverance, their vision and yes, *their passion*, can inspire us to take our mission, the winning of the lost to Jesus Christ, more seriously. Their passion can stir our passion. “A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm,” said

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Charles Schwab. (Draper's Quotations for the Christian World, 3176)

Passion makes a difference. And there are things we can do to lift the level of our passion. We can move closer to our Lord. When we do, the fire of His love for humankind will fill us. We can find people who believe in us. We can surround ourselves with "fire-lighters." And while we will never be able to silence all the "fire-fighters"—those who would extinguish our enthusiasm with their criticism and complaints, we can learn not to allow their negativity to control our mind and heart. We can use the inspiration that comes from passionate people to encourage, guide and lift us. There are things we can do to ignite a passion for the lost in our own heart. Our passion will make a difference.

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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Describe enthusiastic people. Who do you know who understands or enjoys unbelievers?

What might they tell you if you asked them the source of their passion?

Which of their behaviors and attitudes can you adapt?

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