

Week 03

LEADER GUIDE



CONNECT

Invite everyone to share what they “wanted to be when they grew up” when they were still in elementary school. When everyone has shared, count the number of people who actually became what they were passionate about becoming when they were young.

LEARN

Watch the video and fill in the blanks.

In my Masterpiece Mission, my passions show me who and what I was made to **FIGHT** for.

What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?

1 Samuel 17:26

“You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted...So it was, when the Philistine rose and came and drew near to meet David, that David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:45, 48

What is the name of your Goliath? _____

LEADER: Give a few moments for people to write down answers and/or think about possibilities.

Who do you want to fight for? _____

What battle are you running toward? Where do you sense a problem, an injustice, a wrong that needs to be righted?

“When we aren’t tapped into the real battle—the battle that matters—we tend to fight battles over things that don’t matter. And we end up fighting the wrong enemies.”¹

We find it helpful to break down the question of passion into three different areas:

- Your **PEOPLE** Passion
- Your **CAUSE** Passion
- Your **INFLUENCING** Passion

INFLUENCING STYLES

LEADER: *You may consider reading these outloud together.*

Consider the summary of influencing styles included below:²

Only Jesus fully lived out all five to their full potential. **And all of us can grow in all five of them. But each of us has one style that is primary among the five.** Here are brief working definitions of each of the APEST gifts.

- The *apostle* sends and extends. These are people who are tasked with the extension of Christianity as a whole, primarily through missions and church planting. The apostle (from the Latin term meaning “sent one”) is a person who is on a mission of being sent, and those who have the apostolic style influence others by emphasizing the work of sending and multiplying.
- The *prophet* questions and critiques. These are people who feel called to maintain faithfulness to God among the people of God. Prophets are guardians of the covenant relationship, calling out sin and challenging God’s people to greater fidelity to God, his Word, and his ways.
- The *evangelist* invites and gathers. These are people who influence by recruiting others to the cause, who love to share the gospel and proclaim the truth about Jesus. They are naturally infectious and able to enlist people in the movement through their communication and actions.
- The *shepherd* protects and provides. These are people called to nurture spiritual development, maintain communal health, and engender loving community among the people of God.
- The *teacher* explains and organizes. These are people who mediate wisdom and understanding. This philosophical style of influencing others brings comprehensive understanding of the revelation bequeathed to the church.

¹ Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. *Find Your Place* (p. 99). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

² Wegner, Rob; Phipps, Brian. *Find Your Place* (pp. 115-116). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

DISCUSS

1. This week's discussion is about the passions God has given to you. On a scale of 1-10, how passionate are you about your current volunteer role?
 - If you answered less than a 6, you are indicating that you are not fulfilled with this role. Do you think that reflects a lack of passion or something else? Explain.

LEADER: There are countless reasons why someone may not feel fulfilled in any given season or ministry. Encourage deeper self-reflection and conversations with a ministry leader if they rate fulfillment low.

2. What groups of *people* are you most passionate about serving and why are you passionate about them?
3. What *causes* are you most passionate about serving? Why do you think that is?
4. What are your top two spiritual *influencing* styles from the assessment results? After reviewing the definitions of those styles, do you think those accurately describe you? How have you seen those styles used in a positive way in the past?
5. Rev John asked the question in last week's sermon: "Have you ever been jealous of someone else's gifts?" How would you answer that question? Why do you think we are tempted to compare and value certain gifts over others?

LEADER: Answering these questions requires a good deal of vulnerability! This is where you need to go first by providing an example of how you personally have envied someone else's gifts/abilities. If you don't think you have, you may need to spend a little more time in self-reflection.

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, **just as he wanted** them to be. 1 Corinthians 12:18

6. **Revisit the verse above. According to this verse, why do you have the gifts you do? How does this Scripture shape how you view your own giftedness? Or the giftedness of others?**

LEADER: *Lead your group to wrestle with the will of God in equipping the Body. we have the gifts we do "just as he wanted." This is an opportunity to trust God's perfect wisdom.*

7. **Do you feel necessary in the Body of Christ? What does the truth of Scripture say about the Body's need for you?**

LEADER: *Again, these questions lead us into very vulnerable territory. Don't make anyone answer them, but create a safe environment in which people feel free to share honestly. Many (if not most?) people wonder at some point if they are really necessary for the Kingdom purposes God has for his Church. Scripture affirms our worth and how necessary we each are in His divine plan--whether we feel it or not!*

FOR NEXT WEEK

- **If you haven't yet, take the online gifts assessment** by clicking on the blue "Online Gifts Assessment" box at the bottom of this page: <https://sjepec.com/gps-groups>
 - *Once you create an account through the provided church-specific assessment link you must login to your account at www.giftpassionstory.com to access your account and view or complete your assessment.*
- **Take some extra time to journal and talk to the Lord about your gifts and passions.** *How do you see God drawing you to serve based on your passions? Are there areas of envy or jealousy that you need to confess and repent of? Do you feel necessary in the Body? How are you viewing your gifts right now?*
- Take some notes on Sunday's sermon.

PRAY

Ask for the Spirit's guidance as we continue the discernment process of our gifts and passions. Pray for one another to trust God's wisdom and purpose for how he has gifted and called each one. Pray for our congregation's spiritual fitness through the way we steward these gifts.