

S.H.A.P.E. – Heart

ABOUT THIS WEEK

This week in our S.H.A.P.E. series, your group will consider how knowing your God has wired your heart (passion) for serving his kingdom.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Prayer Journal Bibles Pens Paper for Each Person

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- Pray for the meeting Print & Read Discussion Guide Clean meeting room
 Clean bathroom Refreshments (Optional) Front door cracked open

OPENING (5-7 MIN)

Briefly welcome everyone and say: Today we're going to take a little group challenge to start. I'm going to set a timer for 60 seconds and I'll keep count—

LET'S SEE HOW MANY SONGS WE CAN NAME WITH THE WORD "HEART" IN THE TITLE.

After the game, say: Judging by how much we sing about them, it's safe to say our hearts matter a lot. Today, we're gonna' look at how God has hardwired our hearts (our dreams and desires) for his kingdom.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Say: But first, can someone start us off with a brief prayer for our time together?

HEART EXAMPLES (5 MIN)

After the discussion say: I'll name a famous person, let's see if we can identify their passions.

J.K. ROWLING (HARRY POTTER AUTHOR)
STEVE JOBS (FORMER CEO OF APPLE)

WRIGHT BROTHERS
PAULA DEEN

HEART IN SCRIPTURE (10 - 15 MIN)

After the discussion say: Our heart, or our passion, can be about us. But those who touch our lives the most are those whose passion is bigger than themselves. But God has even bigger plans in mind with your passions.

CAN I GET SOME VOLUNTEERS TO READ COLOSSIANS 3:23-24, MATTHEW 22:37, AND PSALM 37:4 ALOUD FOR US?

After the passages have been read, ask:

WHAT DO YOU LEARN ABOUT YOUR HEART WHEN YOU READ THESE PASSAGES?

CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 5:16 ALOUD FOR US?**THAT'S NICE IN THEORY, BUT HOW MIGHT GOD ACTUALLY BE GLORIFIED BY OUR PASSIONS?****“HEART” DISCOVERY (10 - 15 MIN)**

Say: Based on these readings, it's important to figure out what people or things God has uniquely hard-wired our hearts to care about. Sunday's sermon talked about some questions we can ask to identify our passions.

WHO, OR WHAT, DOES YOUR HEART HURT FOR?**ASKED ANOTHER WAY, IF TIME OR MONEY WASN'T AN ISSUE, WHAT CAUSE WOULD YOU COMMIT YOURSELF TO?**

NOTE: Allow plenty of time for discussion. The goal is to create interest in discovering where our passions are and how they may be directed to serve God's kingdom.

RESPOND IN FAITH (10 – 15 MIN)

Say: We have talked about “heart principles” today. Let's summarize our discussion—

LET'S GO IN A CIRCLE AND QUICKLY LIST YOUR TOP PASSIONS.**ON A SCALE FROM 1 (JUST DISCOVERING) TO 4 (TOTALLY) HOW MUCH ARE YOU LIVING LIFE FOR THOSE PASSIONS?****HOW IS, OR HOW COULD, GOD BE GLORIFIED WITH YOUR PASSIONS?****ANNOUNCEMENTS TO SHARE (2-3 MIN)**

After a discussion, say: Just a few upcoming events at St. Mark to let you know about.

- Sunday, January 28, Worship in the Round
- Wednesday, February 7, Prayer Night
- Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday Worship

CLOSING PRAYERS (7-10 MIN)

After the announcements, say: We are going to begin our prayer time by praying about God using our heart and passions.

BUT BEFORE WE DO, ARE THERE ANY PRAYER REQUESTS TODAY?

[Please write them in your group prayer journal.]

After prayer requests have been taken, close the group in prayer.