

MAKE YOUR MARK

WEEK ONE:
PASSION

STONECREEK
CHURCH

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THE SETUP

We are meant to make a mark. And at some level most of us realize that how we live impacts the people and circumstances around us. The question we must ask ourselves is not **if** we will make a mark, but **what kind of mark will we make?**

In this first study, we will look at passion. What is one troubling aspect of the world that when you hear it you are moved to action? This tension you feel isn't yours alone, but God shares it as well. This is God's way of inviting you into an intentional and personalized partnership with Him to being about change for someone.

THOUGHT STARTER

Read the definition of passion. What hobbies, situations or areas of life do you see people get "passionate" about?

Which passions would you consider valid? How do we know?

pas•sion \ˈpɑ-shən\
From late Latin *passion-*,
passio, or suffering. Implies
energetic and unwavering
pursuit of an aim, devotion to
a cause. An intense, driving,
or overmastering feeling or
conviction.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Exodus 1:8-14

Over 300 years, the Israelites grew from 70 men and favor before Pharaoh in Egypt (ca. 1804 B.C.) to a nation of roughly 2 million people living under disfavor and enslavement (ca. 1525-1445 B.C.) The Pharaoh saw the Israelites growth as a threat to national security and an economic asset to exploit. The Pharaoh unjustly used slavery and hard labor to minimize their threat and maximize his profitability from their enslavement.

Where do you see similar injustices in our world today?

What role does fear play in the oppressed and their oppressor?

When you hear or read about such injustices, what words come to mind to describe your thoughts, feelings or reaction?

Read Exodus 2:11-12 and Acts 7:22-24

Enter Moses. He was raised as a “son” of the Pharaoh’s daughter and given all of the special privileges belonging to nobility (Exodus 2:10). Moses was “educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.” (Acts 7:22) As an Egyptian, there was not anything he could not do. But Moses never relinquished his true identity and bond with his brothers and sisters of Israel (see Hebrews 11:24-26). He identified with God’s People in their suffering and was ultimately compelled to action.

We encounter atrocities through stories, images and first-hand experiences and yet may never get involved. What was stirred inside of Moses to cause him to act?

Do you feel Moses was justified in killing the Egyptian? Why or why not?

What is an area of your life or something within the world you feel compelled to do something about? What is the underlying need, opportunity or injustice that speaks to you?

Moses enjoyed the comforts of Egyptian nobility, but refused to let comfort overshadow injustice. What comforts in the world or in your life could keep you from recognizing the things you are passionate about? What could keep you from acting on your passions?

APPLY IT

Between now and the end of February, keep a list of anything that evokes passion within you or leads you to say, “that’s just not right.” Each time you get together with your group, share from what you have written down.

EXPLORE IT FURTHER

This week, spend one meal with a spouse or a trusted friend and discuss a current event or news story that speaks to your heart. This may be either a tragic or an uplifting situation. Use the following questions as a guide.

- What is really at the core of the story? What are the basic human elements?
- What thoughts do you and the person you’re with have about what is taking place?
- How could you pray for the people in the story? Is there a way you can help? If so, how?
- What does the Bible have to say about this issue?

Close your time together with a prayer. Thank God for His unfailing and unending love. Ask Him to reveal where He wants you to take action and bring change for someone else.

Leading people to pursue life in Jesus as their greatest passion.
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