

Small Group Guide

Week of
December 15,
2024

Christmas
classics

Living with
Passion



Icebreaker



- If you could instantly become an expert at one Christmas-related skill (e.g., baking, decorating, singing carols), what would it be?
- If you could spend Christmas anywhere in the world, where would it be and what would you do?



Discussion Questions



- Reflect on Revelation 2:4-5. How does this passage resonate with the idea of rediscovering your first love for Christ?
- Have you ever experienced a time when your faith felt more like a program than a passionate relationship? What led to that?
- There's danger in complacency. What are some signs that spiritual complacency might be creeping into your life?
- What steps can you take to "remember, repent, and return" to a passionate relationship with Jesus?
- How do you balance enjoying the fun traditions of Christmas while keeping your focus on Jesus?
- We're encouraged to express our passion for Jesus. What are some ways you can outwardly show your love for Him this week?
- Discuss the difference between passion that endures (e.g., the example of a long marriage) versus fleeting enthusiasm. How can you cultivate enduring passion for Christ?
- What are some practical ways your group can help each other stay passionate about Jesus during the busy holiday season?
- The church at Ephesus was praised for its works but rebuked for losing its love. How do you keep love and passion central even while being busy with good works?



Thought for the Group



Christmas is a season filled with joy, memories, and traditions, but it also gives us a chance to reflect on what matters most—our relationship with Jesus. Just as Buddy the Elf's passion overflowed because he knew Santa, our lives should overflow with passion for Christ because we know Him personally.

In Revelation 2:4-5, Jesus reminds the church in Ephesus of their early love and warns them about losing their passion. They were doing all the right things, but their hearts had grown cold. This passage invites us to examine our own lives: Are we still passionate about Jesus, or have we allowed our faith to become routine? The good news is that Jesus doesn't leave us in our complacency. He calls us to:

Remember the joy of knowing Him.

Repent of distractions that have shifted our focus.

Return to a vibrant, personal relationship with Him.

Let's not get so caught up in the "wrapping paper" of life—our busyness, traditions, or even good works—that we forget the true gift of Christmas: Jesus. This week, take time to pause, reflect, and express your love for Him in a way that rekindles your passion and makes it known to others.

Jesus doesn't want a checklist faith—He wants a relationship that's alive, enduring, and full of joy. Let's rediscover that first love together!



Next Steps



- Set aside 30 minutes this week to reflect on your initial passion for Jesus. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal areas where your focus has shifted and to reignite your love for Him.
- Start a daily practice of remembering who Jesus is and what He has done. This could be reading a passage of Scripture, journaling one thing you're grateful for, or reflecting on one name of Jesus (e.g., Savior, Redeemer, Emmanuel). Keep this practice consistent for the next 7 days.