

INTRO

Share something that you're interested in that may be a surprise or unknown to others in the group.

READ

2 Timothy 1:6

REFLECT & RESPOND

The interests and passions we've just shared carry a time demand with them. So too does our relationship and passion for Jesus. It's us who are responsible for keeping our hearts passionately in love with him. Paul reminds Timothy to fan into flame (ESV) or stir up (KJV) the gift of God which was in him. We're encouraged when we think about what Jesus has done in us.

Qu: Share something significant that God has done in your heart or life. What did this show you about who God is and how he views you?

When we examine what Jesus has done and is doing in our lives, a passion for the things of God and the Holy Spirit should arise in us. It is the Holy Spirit who is the Great Evangelist, continually working in the lives of those around us drawing them in a gentle and loving way.

As a child of God I am to be led by the Spirit. This requires that I willingly follow and allow the Holy Spirit to lead me. The Holy Spirit lovingly invites me to participate in what He is doing.

“The Son can't independently do a thing, only what he sees the Father doing. What the Father does the Son does. The Father loves the Son and includes him in everything he is doing.” John 5:19, *The Message*

You will encounter opportunities where people are open and receptive to the message of Jesus or you sharing your faith. These moments in my experience are often accompanied by a feeling that I should say something. This is the prompting of the Holy Spirit. When prompted it still requires that I boldly step out in faith and speak what I feel I should say. As I practice

doing this, the hearing and doing becomes more and more natural.

Having a Biblical perspective that all people are in need of Jesus is essential. The universe is reliant on Jesus who is the originator, provider and sustainer of life. In his faithfulness and goodness, Jesus is God's provision for all of humanity.

Qu: Is the perception of people you know one of they're doing well or they need Jesus? Have we picked up any views, academic or cultural, that restrain us from sharing the Good News of Jesus with others?

To be effective it's imperative that I am authentic and genuine. Our mission isn't to collect and process converts. Jesus is looking to be in a deep and meaningful relationship with each person. When we read the Gospels it's incredible to see how Jesus related to people, accepted them and invited them to come as they were. Remember the process of sanctification in people begins with them being born again.

Loving people is difficult. By the standard of 1 Cor 13:4-8, love can't be done by effort. It can't be done outside of Jesus. Jesus living in us and being our source is the only way we can truly love others. Our love proves our faith, as does the other fruits of the Spirit evidenced in our lives. It's life in the Spirit that will clearly and genuinely communicate the message of Jesus to others.

RESPOND & PRAY (1 person pray per point)

- Commit to tending to your heart and keeping Jesus as your 1st love & allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you.
- Pray for one another for sensitivity, tenderness and boldness in following the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that God would renew our minds to his perspective.
- Ask God to fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit, so that Jesus would be lived out.