

Why the journey is needed

“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

Acts 17:27 (NIV)

This session guide outlines suggested elements you might use to help answer the key question below and achieve the aim of the training session. The time allocations can be adjusted according to the amount of time you have.

Key question: Why should we journey with the people around us?

Aim: To see that God has placed everyone where they are in order that they would seek him and find him. It's no accident that we meet who we meet – God uses Christians in their unique circumstances to help people encounter Jesus.

Pre-video ice breaker/discussion starter (3 min)

What do you think the non-Christians in your life would say the purpose of life is?

We would recommend people split into pairs or triplets to discuss this and further questions. If you are doing more than one session over a period of time, it may be helpful for people to stick to the same pairs/groups so that they can build trust and support one another consistently.

We'd also recommend you either print the list of questions or display them on a screen if meeting in person. Put them into the chat feature before you head into breakout rooms if you're meeting online.

Play video by Rico Tice (approx. 20 min)

Download here: apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1-vid-download

Practical exercises and discussion questions (15 minutes)

Below is a list of questions to consider using. You will not have time for all of them, so select those that you think will be most helpful for people to internalise and apply what they've just heard. Maybe you can think of others.

1. How does knowing that God's aim for the world is for people to meet Jesus affect our thinking about the purpose of life?

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2. Take some time to think about the truth that God is the Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of your life, street and community. How does this give you confidence and what does that mean as you share Jesus with others?
3. It's amazing that our all-powerful God still chooses to work through us as his principle means of drawing others to Himself. As we reflect upon those in our lives, you could focus on those that live near you. Take some time to write down and share your answers to the following questions:
 - a) What do I know about them?
 - b) What have I done to serve them?

It's okay to acknowledge that you might not have done anything. If that is the case, think about what you might do now.
4. A good next step might be to look at other A Passion for Life training sessions about how we can ask questions and deepen our conversations with people. How does knowing that there are times when it is okay to exit/shut up make you feel as you journey with people?
5. Have you made assumptions about how open people in your life might be to the gospel? How can we avoid this and ensure we see every encounter we have with as a divine appointment that can be used in their journey towards Christ?

Prayer time (12 min)

We would recommend leaving some time for people to pray in their pairs or groups. You may like to ask them to reflect and pray about what has encouraged or challenged them from this session. They may like to include these points:

- Praise God that He is Creator, Sustainer and Ruler of the universe. Praise Him for His grace in saving us.
- Ask God to help you to remember and see that nothing is an accident, God is in control of it all and has purposed you to meet and point others to Jesus.
- Ask God to draw people around you to Himself and to help you be more willing to join in journeying with them towards life in Jesus.

Further Bible Reflection (10 min)

This is an additional Bible reflection to go deeper into the main theme. You may choose to use it as part of the training session. Alternatively, you could hand it out on a printout / email it around for reflection during the week, along with the "take home" questions.

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“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Context: In Paul's letter to the Ephesians we see clearly how the Sovereign Creator God is the one who is able to reconcile creation, all nations and individuals to himself in Christ.

Commentary: Our Christian life is all of grace. We are grace dependant not only for our salvation but also for everything that we might do for God's glory. God brings about in us that which will honour him.

Comment: As God's workmanship - his works of art - discuss what it means to do the 'good works' in our daily lives that he has planned beforehand for us to do?

Take home

You may like to print out / email around this section so that people can re-watch the video and reflect further.

Why not re-watch the video with a notebook open, praying that God will root these principles into your heart. Watch here: apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1-view

If you haven't already done so, think about the people you interact with. You may like to list them, pray for them and plan how you can make progress in:

- Knowing them
- Serving them
- Asking a spiritual question

The training video is available for anyone to watch at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1-view

More stories from everyday believers can be viewed and downloaded at apassionforlife.org.uk/ibd1