



# PHASE 1: IGNITE

## WEEK 4: DISCOVER YOUR PASSION

### Schedule

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| _____ | Passion is a Journey, Wilson .....        |  |
| _____ | Passion: The Battle Station, Battle ..... |  |
| _____ | A Question and a Statement, Formsma ..... |  |
| _____ | Finding Your Passion .....                |  |
| _____ | Homework — Research Passion Areas .....   |  |

### — Video—PASSION IS A JOURNEY, Julie Wilson

#### Presenter

Julie Wilson has over 20 years of experience in communications, strategic leadership and specializes in bringing clarity, focus and warm guidance. She is currently the President of Women Doing Well where her passion for women, leadership and generosity combine.

#### Overview/Questions

- As you watch this video that introduces the importance of passion and its influence in your generosity, think about what you care about — what are your passions?

#### Notes

- Passion — a very strong and overwhelming feeling, to the point of doing something dangerous for it.





- Passion is often related to the pain of the past, and changes with time and circumstances.

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- Steps to finding your passion.
  1. Be your authentic self

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### 2. Cultivate a listening ear

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### 3. Take a step

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- Look where God is at work and join Him. Henry Blackaby

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## Video—PASSION: THE BATTLE STATION, Shelia Battle

### Presenter

Frank and Sheila Battle have shared life, love and service in the community for over 25 years. Their home is affectionately referred to as The Battle Station where they coach, consult and support businesses, families and individuals on their journey to mental and emotional health. They launched The SoulCare Academy to provide holistic and supportive services for those in need and also host a podcast and YouTube Channel called Soulful Conversations.

### Overview/Questions

- As you watch the video, consider how following her passions led Sheila on an amazing life journey towards a more generous, God — filled life.

### Notes

- A passion for community and for meaningful conversation.

- Lacked a plan — would have been totally overwhelmed — simply always took the next step.





- Pressures of daily living made them realize the importance of grace and learning to know God in new ways.

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- Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. 1 Timothy 6:17 — 19

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## A QUESTION AND A STEP, Laura Formsma

### Reading

A few years ago, my husband, Brad, posed a question that sparked a life-changing relationship for our family, “Where do I find a widow?”

Brad and I had been noticing in scripture the priority God places on orphans and widows and how little contact we had with widows. So, it wasn’t a surprise when Brad asked this question a few weeks later.

I grew up not knowing where my parents gave. There wasn’t any generosity talk in our family. So, it was important to me to change that for our kids and not just give one-time gifts but come alongside and really get to know people.





Spurred by James 1:27, we stepped out to see if we could find someone to get to know. A friend of Brad's knew an 88-year-old woman named Evelyn who had cut back on taking her medications because of her limited finances. We thought that could be a small step we could make, so we made a phone call to the pharmacy and began paying Evelyn's bill.

After several years of meeting this need and exchanging notes with her through our mutual friend, we met Evelyn in person for the first time. It was so special to meet her and see her interact with our baby.

We had had challenges getting pregnant with our youngest. As I watched Evelyn hold our baby a few weeks after her birth, I was struck by the fact that this was an answer to prayer. She'd prayed for this baby. She'd prayed me through my pregnancy. And now, here she was, holding this answer to her prayers.

From the beginning, we were always very intentional about sharing with our kids about when we'd been in contact with her and the ways we were able to help her. This made them so excited to meet her. It was truly a treasure heart connection—because where you give, that's where your heart is connected. Our kids knew her and loved her in a way that was truly supernatural.

My kids also got to see that not only was Evelyn generous with her prayers, she was also a committed giver to those around her. Whether it was her famous banana bread, rides to the store, or small financial gifts to those she knew were in need, she would actually take some of what we gave her and share it with others.

Evelyn's generosity, along with her spunky, determined personality, became known to the world when at age 98 she was the focus of one of I Like Giving's generosity films. *I Like Being 98* is the most watched film to date and has been seen by more than a million viewers. I think everyone is inspired that we all have something to give and it is pretty simple to just take a step.

A few years ago, when it was time for her to move into an assisted living facility, her health coverage didn't allow for a private room. Brad and I knew she would





do so much better in a private room. This was a step of faith for us because it was a lot every month to cover and we had no idea how long Evelyn would live. As we prayed about it, we knew it was what God was inviting us to do. It did feel like a test though because we didn't know how long it would be and if we would need that money for something else. In the end, we knew that is how we'd want to be cared for, so it was the right thing to do.

Ironically, just three weeks after we sent the first payment, Evelyn was called home by Jesus. The facility returned that first payment since she didn't live there even a month. We both knew right away that our giving had purpose and felt so joyful that God had allowed us to spoil this amazing daughter of His for those last few weeks of her earthly life.

In one last act of love and to honor our friend we sent that money to Evelyn's daughter so they could throw a big party in her memory after the funeral service. The place was packed and there were people of all ages there. It was such an incredible reflection of her generosity to others and her rich life. She may not have had a lot of earthly wealth, but she was rich in impact and purpose.

That small step we made to form a relationship with Evelyn continues to bear fruit in the lives of our children and in us. Our kids are very intentional with their grandma now. They do things for her without us even knowing it. And it's sparked more generosity as they think of ideas for teachers, city workers and neighbors. My son even decided to write a book with my husband about how generosity has changed our family.

I'm so thankful Brad asked the question 'Where do I find a widow?' Without that question, we would have missed such an amazing opportunity not only to teach our children, but also to learn what it means to give out of what you have. We truly are the blessed ones, that we got to live life with her. Scripture is right, it truly is "better to give than to receive."

## Notes

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## Exercise — FINDING YOUR PASSION

### Notes

1. What would I do if I knew I could not fail?

2. My friends would say my soapbox is ...

3. What brings me to tears? Breaks my heart? Pierces my soul?

4. I always dreamed I would impact the world by...



# PASSION

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*Persecution*

*Local Church*



*International Missions*

*Justice*

*Shelter*

*Hunger*

*Family*

*Arts and Culture*

*Human Trafficking  
and Slavery*

*Marriage*



*Refugees*

*Health and Medical*

*Microfinance*

*National Missions*

*Disaster Relief*

Your passion is often focused on areas of giving that God has placed on your heart. Using your answers to the brainstorm on the previous page as a guide, circle those that appeal to you the most. It is important to note that there are times that God will ask you to give to things that might not fit your unique passion. Obedience will always trump personal preference as the pathway to joy, but knowing your unique passions can help us live into God's invitation to be a cheerful giver.

*Church Planting*

*Discipleship*

*Education*

*Evangelism*

*Legacy*

*Leadership*

*Prayer*

*Generosity*

*Unreached People  
Groups*

*Women and Girls*

*Water*

*Racial Diversity and  
Reconciliation*

*Scripture Translation*

*Disability Ministry*

*Domestic Abuse*



## HOMEWORK

### Research Passion Areas

- From the Finding Your Passion Exercise, research the areas you circled.
- The National Christian Foundation is a resource for giving; they have an excellent compilation of articles on a large variety of causes: <https://www.ncfgiving.com/stories/topics/causes/>