

Lessons Learned In student ministry

1. Start with testimonies - we want to encourage you with some of the incredible things God is doing in our students... There are many more stories
2. List some things that we've done this past year?
3. Ignite is a unique experiment - students from different churches and backgrounds coming together in Christ's name
4. **Introduce Jonnie (Jonnie)**

The question that we've asked: How do we go about making disciples? How do we be effective at reaching hearts and minds for Christ? - (Jake)

A few scriptures to start with that form our most basic attitude about ministry:

1. Without me you can do nothing - **John 15:5 – Jonnie**

What are the things that we cannot accomplish?

We cannot accomplish Spiritual change on our own.

In a *general* sense, I can't do anything without Christ, but specifically, we can't do the things God has commanded us to do in our own strength or effort

Even if we're in our strengths, we can still be doing things in the flesh!

John 6:63 it is the SPIRIT that gives life, the flesh is no help at all! - Human effort is insufficient to do big things for God! **(Jake)**

2. **Acts 1:8** - power to minister comes from the Holy Spirit - In order to accomplish the things God has commanded us to do, we REQUIRE His power, and that comes from the Holy Spirit. **(Jake)**

The Holy Spirit is absolutely central to the Christian faith! - **(Jake) But**, we are often guilty of underestimating how important the Holy Spirit is!

- Lack of victory in influence for the kingdom - not seeing God move around you
- Absence of an empowered life - feeling empty, unable to overcome sin or other obstacles, laziness toward spiritual things
- No sense of guidance or communication from above

These things are results of doing things out of human effort and not the spirit - Used up, dried up, not refreshed - result of not being connected to the Father! *If your faith is tired out and worn out, you are not walking in connection with the Spirit!*

We CANNOT live the Christian life if we're not connected to the Holy Spirit!

When we break down the walls to let the Holy Spirit work in and around us, that's when things change! **(Jake)**

Sons of Sceva - What happens without the Holy Spirit **(Acts 19:11-18)**

- The right things without the Holy Spirit are really the wrong things
- Did not have a connection to Christ
- Doing things in the name of Christ but without His blessing/empowerment leads to DAMAGE
- It burns us out and harms the person being ministered to

God's impressed on us not to do things without the Spirit AND also, taught us we can't CONTROL how the Spirit works.

Simon the Magician - (Acts 8:8-14)

- Wanted to have power to duplicate the Holy Spirit's activity
- No recipe to HOW God's Spirit works, you can't boil it down to a method
- We can't be slaves to programs or evangelism strategies, or discipleship books. These things are helpful, but what's more important is letting the Spirit direct ALL of our efforts and NOT moving without Him or trying to put Him in a box.

John 3:8 - The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **SHARE CAMP TESTIMONY ABOUT PREACHING!** There are few times when I've felt as devastated about my own ability, but also few times when I felt as comforted by God's ability and sovereignty

The Spirit does the Will of the FATHER. It's not up to Him to bless our plans, it's on us to seek out what He's doing and be a part of it. We don't get to direct it. BUT He is active all around us, and if we will stop and pay attention to the Spirit's activity, we WILL see God moving.

Transition to: When will we see the Holy Spirit at work

1. We will see the Holy Spirit at work when we are attentive to personal Holiness (Jonnie)

- We've learned that we can't minister well to students if we're not right at home
- Our first job is to be attached (**John 15:4-9**)
- Are we living lives that are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and FREE from any hindrances
- When our hearts are right, then we can be equipped to lead and minister
- ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

God's geocentric method of activity - The Spirit's work starts inside you, and works outward - Jake

We need to remove the barriers Have you removed barriers to the Spirit in YOU and AROUND you. – (Jake)

- a. Quenching the Spirit (**1 Thes 5:19**) - Don't put out the fire... If the Holy Spirit has prompted your heart (set a fire in you), do it!
- b. Dangerous to numb yourself to those feelings

EVEN if it is something foreign/uncomfortable for you to do
Share experiences or testimonies about things we've prayed for

- Grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30) - Sinful living / disobedience
- Resist the Spirit (**Acts 7:51**) – Stephen calling out the Pharisees
Unhumbled hearts, religious and stubborn and self-righteous and self-reliant (puffing up ourselves)
- Blaspheme the Spirit (**Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:30**) - Slandering or dishonoring God even in the midst of irrefutable evidence... today, perpetual or continuing state of unbelief in Christ (especially despite promptings or works of the LORD) – Refusing to turn your life over to God even though you KNOW the truth.

Holy Spirit must be powerful IN you before God will work THROUGH you.

- God wants the Holy Spirit to be active in the lives of those closest to you
(Jonnie)

- Are you seeking the Holy Spirit
- Stop trying to control your family, instead listen and depend on the Holy Spirit
- YOU can't change it in your flesh

You cannot accomplish God's will in your family and relationships without connection to the SPIRIT

2. Valuing relationships – not numbers
 - a. Not just being a friend
 - b. Spiritual fathering and mothering
 - c. Mentoring/Coaching
 - d. Loving through serving – not about you
 - e. Not about programs
3. Focus on Scripture – Guarding the integrity of God's Word
 - f. The WHOLE Gospel
 - g. Chewing on difficult truths
 - h. Holy Spirit will not work outside what God has revealed in Scripture
4. Worship – The Holy Spirit will be at work WHERE the name of God is worshipped and glorified
5. Gospel at WORK – We have witnessed the power of Christ's living Gospel to change hearts and transform lives... to provide destiny and hope to people whose futures were dead.

As we've been obedient to take the steps God has led us to, He has been faithful to respond and to act.

OBEDIENCE – FAITHFULNESS

We witness the faithfulness of God in greatest measure when we walk in obedience.

Are you watching for the Spirit's activity to provide opportunities to witness to those you encounter?

- ERIKA'S TESTIMONY TO SHARE WITH STACY ABOUT CAMP
- God used her small act of obedience because she was SENSITIVE to the Spirit... to change a family, to change our youth group, and now to change the lives of those who know them!!!

- We CANNOT fulfill God's calling to make disciples without being directed!

We will not see large movements of God in our families, our churches, or our communities UNTIL we stop, seek the Holy Spirit, and submit ourselves to do God's will THROUGH His Spirit.

LEAD INTO COMMUNION

Pray about barriers to the Spirit in yourself

Pray about where God is moving in your FAMILY and in those around you

- **Where have you tried to control**
- **Where have you failed to lead and seek Spirit**

Pray about God opening your eyes to see opportunities we are missing