

Ignite



ACTION GUIDE





OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

This month we are committing to spend time reading God's Word, praying, and being obedient as God calls us to action. In our Ignite series we will focus on how the Holy Spirit ignites the spirit within us, ignites our passion for ministry, ignites our hope for the future, ignites our generosity, and ignites our reach into the world. Each week we will take intentional time to be kindled by God's Word, to pray that God will spark and inspire our hearts to action. Thank you to our Ignite writing team who offered their prayers and ideas for our church-wide project: Daniel, Grace, Brent Margarita, Leah, Joy, Lo, Laci, Josh Jessica, Susan.

week *Two*

IGNITE OUR PASSION FOR MINISTRY



week *Two*

Day 1



KINDLE

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. *1 Corinthians 12:14-20, 27*

SPARK

Heavenly Father, you have created us to experience unity in diversity. Today, we especially thank you for the many diverse gifts that we have at The Woodlands United Methodist Church. We pray that our church can be your body, united around a common mission to win people to Jesus, disciple them in faith, and help those in need. In Jesus' name. Amen.

IGNITE



Take the free online spiritual gifts assessment offered by the Church Growth Institute at gifts.churchgrowth.org/gifts-survey.

Complete the assessment, print or email the results to yourself and a friend or mentor, and review the results together. What surprised you? Make a plan to find how to best use these gifts.

week *Two*

Day 2

KINDLE

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. *Romans 12:9-13*

SPARK

Holy God, you call us to a high standard. We strive to cling to what is good, to love one another, to show honor, to be zealous, to serve, to rejoice, to be patient, and to minister to the saints around us. Forgive us when we fall short. We thank you that by the grace offered to us in Jesus Christ, you use imperfect people like us to work your perfect plan in the world. Empower us for that mission today. In Christ's name, Amen.

IGNITE

Pick one statement in this passage that is the most difficult for you. Maybe it is rejoicing in hope, showing honor to one another, or praying constantly. Write that statement on a sticky note and place it somewhere that you'll see it—on your mirror, refrigerator, or dashboard—as a reminder of who God has called you to be.



week *Two*

Day 3



KINDLE

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. *Acts 11:19-26*

SPARK

Dear God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the obedience of the first disciples. Help us to be a witness through our lives, through our words, and through the living word of God to our neighbors in our community both locally and internationally. Continue to guide us to serve where we can through our prayers, our resources, and our actions. Give us opportunity to speak truth and love for your glory. Amen.

IGNITE

Send a note of encouragement to someone at our church who has been a part of a ministry that has blessed you. It could be a staff member, volunteer, small group leader, greeter, usher, or pastor.

week *Two*

Day 4

KINDLE

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. *Matthew 16:24-25*

SPARK

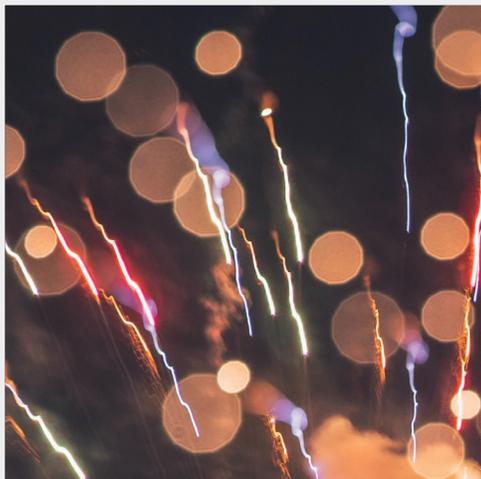
Lord of all, ignite within us a passion to lay down our lives for you. Help us to set aside our own self interests. Make us a people who desire your fame, not our own. Let us be a church marked by our sacrifice in service to the world. In the Name of the one who carried His cross for us. Amen.

IGNITE

Perform a random act of kindness today. Rake your neighbor’s leaves, pay for the order behind you in the drive thru, or bake a friend some cookies. Your act will cost you something—time, resources, money—but it will be a small way of denying yourself in service to Christ and the world. Write down how it made you feel.



week *Two*



Day 5

KINDLE

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature personhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.
Ephesians 4:11-13

SPARK

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus and for the many gifts to serve the body of Christ in ministry. Help us to use these gifts for your glory and to further your kingdom. Continue to guide us in our calling, that we may show humility, gentleness, love, and patience with our fellow brothers and sisters. Thank you for your gift of grace when we make mistakes and for the extravagant gift of eternal life. Amen

IGNITE

Give up a regular “me-time” activity this week. For example, a TV show, social media time or workout. Instead, spend this time with someone special. How did this time end up blessing you?

