



Igniting Children to Worship

by David Boyd

Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a thermometer of the spiritual life of a child? Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were a gauge that would tell us if a child is spiritually on fire for God? THERE IS! It happens during worship.

Have you ever noticed a young first grader worshipping God, hands raised high and eyes tightly shut, while standing a couple of rows back is a fifth grader slumped down with hands in pockets, refusing to worship? Both of these children are showing signs of their spiritual health. The first grader is showing signs of spiritual fervor, while the fifth grader is showing signs that his spiritual life is running on empty.

True worship is probably one of the quickest keys to spotting spiritual passion and depth in children. We're not talking about praise songs where the kids are clapping, stomping, and doing actions. We're talking about worship when eyes are shut and hands are raised and a connection is taking place

between the children and God.

How can we ignite spiritual passion in the lives of our children? The answer is, spiritual passion is *caught* more than *taught*! Paul said in 2 Timothy that he saw the sincere (passionate) faith that Timothy had and he knew that Timothy had caught that passion from his mother and his grandmother.



Timothy was ignited to serve because his spiritual leaders were ignited to serve and had passed their passion down to the next generation.

Our theme in recent years in children's ministries across America was "Ignited to Serve."

We want our ministry to be fruitful. We want our passion to be caught by our leaders and by the next generation. This happens when we let our passionate faith in Christ be caught by those around us. When you are passionate about the lost children in your city, it's contagious. When you are passionate about the children you have and seeing them become great champions for Christ, it's contagious.

When you invest your passion in the hearts and lives of your leaders, you can "Ignite them to Serve!" And when you ignite them, they in turn ignite the children!

Second Timothy 1:6 states, "Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands." In this passage, the word *fan* is a verb. Paul is teaching Timothy that it is his responsibility to fan the flame of God within himself. We, too, must make it happen in our own lives. Our job isn't to sit back and let God ignite the flame. We must passionately want more of God. We must passionately want more of the Holy Spirit. We must passionately

want more of Him today than we had yesterday. We must passionately desire spiritual gifts. We must passionately want the fire of God to ignite our lives in such a way that every child who comes into contact with us can't help but see the fire, desire the fire, and beg for the fire of God in their lives.

If we will fan into flame the passion of God in our lives, our leaders and our kids in turn will fall passionately in love with the same God we serve, and they will be ignited to serve Him.

Questions for Further Study—

1. How can you pass on your passion for Christ to the children within your ministry?
2. Are you effectively communicating your fire and passion for Christ to the teachers within your church?
3. Within your ministry, what do you strategically do to “fan into flame the gift of God that is within” your children?