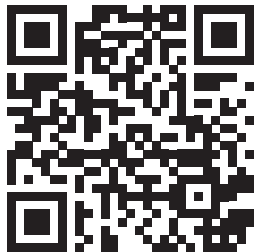


Our vision is to ignite a movement of authentic followers of Christ by reaching 1000 people with the gospel and releasing 200 equipped leaders from the next generation for Church leadership by 2028.

For more information about Ignite and our path for sustaining, growing, and expanding our church's ability to impact the world with the gospel, please visit
WhitesburgBaptist.org/Ignite.



Day 1: A Gift from God

**“He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things. And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.”
Ephesians 4:10-11 (NASB95)**

Whenever we think of the word “gift” we often think of a tangible object. Something we can touch, taste, smell, wear, or any number of things. (Yes, when we think of gifts we also think of what we return!) Everyone has an unusual story about getting an odd gift from some distant or not too distant relative on a birthday or at Christmas. We have some friends who lived across the street for many years. One year we gave them a “Christmas bell.” For many years we played a silly game of swapping that bell back and forth. Every year you were challenged to find the bell hanging somewhere on your tree. We shared a lot of laughs and lots of love giving that bell to one another.

Did you know that gifts can be much more than something tangible? According to God's Word, leaders are gifts to His church. As a matter of fact, God wants us to honor, cherish, pray for, and follow those He has entrusted with our spiritual oversight.

•Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:17-18

•Prayer Focus: Take time today to pray for the spiritual leaders God has placed in your life. Pray for your church staff, the deacons, and the Sunday School teachers. As you pray, don't forget to thank God for His gifts.

Day 2: Leadership Equipping the Laity

**“For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”
Ephesians 4:12 (NASB95)**

“During the American Revolution a man in civilian clothes rode past a group of soldiers repairing a small defensive barrier. Their leader was shouting instructions, but making no attempt to help them. Asked why by the rider, he retorted with great dignity, ‘Sir, I am a corporal!’ The stranger apologized, dismounted, and proceeded to help the exhausted soldiers. The job done, he turned to the corporal and said, ‘Mr. Corporal, next time you have a job like this and not enough men to do it, go to your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you again.’ It was none other than George Washington.” (Today in the Word, March 6, 1991.)

Equipping others to be faithful servants for the Lord involves more than instruction, it also includes demonstration. God has given leadership to the church for the purpose of equipping others to do the work of ministry. Jesus provides the model for equipping others. In Mark 3 it says, “He called them unto Himself, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.” The work of the King and His kingdom necessitates leadership and followership.

•Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

•Prayer Focus: Pray for God's enablement to lead others in your areas of influence and also ask Him to make you a great follower!

Day 3: Saints Serving Their Savior

**“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”
1 Peter 4:8 (NASB95)**

Vance Havner told the story that after one of Napoleon Bonaparte's great battles, he had coins minted bearing the words, “I Was There.” Napoleon then had the coins distributed to every soldier who took part in the battle. Could the Lord give you such a token as a good soldier of Jesus Christ? Will you be able to say when veterans tell of the great warfare, “I was there”? John MacArthur once said, “Spiritual service is the work of every Christian, every saint of God. Attendance is a poor substitute for participation in ministry.” Sometimes we get the idea that attending a worship service or a Bible study is our act of service. In reality, those activities are for our refreshment, encouragement, and spiritual growth. Did you know that God wants you to find a place of service through the local church? Every Christian has been gifted by God and those gifts are to be used for His glory. Perhaps you have been very busy serving the Lord through His church. Let me thank you for your faithfulness and diligence. If every one of God's children would willingly serve the Lord in some capacity, think of what can be accomplished. How are you being used to spread His gospel and bring glory to His name? As Vance Havner said, “Will you be able to say when veterans tell of the great warfare, I was there?”

•Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

•Prayer Focus: Pray specifically that our church will see 200 equipped next generation leaders released into Church leadership by 2028.

Day 4: The Product

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”
John 15:8 (NASB95)

The grapevine or vineyard, along with its fruit, is referred to many times, often metaphorically, in both the Old and New Testaments. It is a prolific plant, a single vine bearing many grapes. Anciently, the vines of Palestine were noted both for their growth and for the large cluster of grapes they produced, which were sometimes carried on a staff between two people, as in the case of the spies in Numbers 13:23. In the Old Testament, the grapevine symbolized fruitfulness, as in Psalm 128:3, or the fertility of the land, as in Deuteronomy 6:11. Dwelling under the vine and the fig tree (1 Kings 4:25 & Micah 4:4) pictured happiness, peace, and prosperity.

God wants your life to be fruitful, in spiritual maturity as well as spiritual multiplication.

•**Scripture Reading:** John 15:1-8

•**Prayer Focus:** As you pray, ask the Lord to produce in you and through you the product He desires. Pray for our church to bear “much fruit” for God’s glory.

Day 5

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”
Romans 1:20 (NASB95)

I enjoy reading The Readers Digest. On occasion I enjoy the short stories, but more often I enjoy the quips and silly stories from sections such as “All in a Days Work.” Recently I read about actual excuses collected from the job site: careerbuilders.com. These were excuses people used to call in “sick”:

1. I forgot to come back to work after lunch.
2. I hurt myself bowling.
3. I was spit on by a venomous snake.
4. I had to be there for my husband’s grand jury trial.
5. My monkey died.

What excuses do people often give for not trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord? What excuses do we as Christians often give for not serving the Lord faithfully?

•**Scripture Reading:** Luke 14:16-24

•**Prayer Focus:** As you pray, pray for those you know who are making excuses why they will not trust Christ. Ask the Lord how He desires to use your gifts and talents for His glory! Don’t forget, when you pray remember to say “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back.”



PRAYER GUIDE
by Pastor Darryl Craft
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WHITESBURG
BAPTIST CHURCH