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DISCOVER WAYS TO RENEW THE 'SPARK' OF KIDS' FAITH

Apathy is a sort of living oblivion," wrote 19th-century editor Horace Greeley. A common refrain from many parents is that their teenagers are lackluster, or hard to "fire up"—especially when it comes to God and the church. Ironically, the apathy epidemic today just may have its roots in overactivity.

"With so much going on for school and traveling teams, [kids] have no time for church, youth groups, and even family time," says one youth minister in Group Magazine's "State of Youth Ministry" report. "Kids are getting pulled in so many directions." Other respondents said their biggest struggles are kids whose lives are compartmentalized and who don't make Christ a priority for daily living.

Youth ministers said they're dying for teenagers who are engaged and passionate about their faith, ready and willing to commit their lives to Jesus. On the positive side, they said they've noticed a hunger among today's teenagers for "deeper" things, as well as a move from "flash" to substance.

So how can you fan the flames of your kids' faith and convince them to invest in it 100 percent? First, lift up your teenagers in prayer often. The Holy Spirit is the one with the power to change hearts and lives. Next, make faith applicable to everyday life. Don't limit talk of God to Sundays. Tie in Scripture to issues that kids face at home, at school, and in their activities and jobs. Make Christ a priority in your own life, and show kids by example what a committed Christian walk looks like. If necessary, cut back your busy schedule to focus more on God. Finally, harness kids' hunger to go deeper by asking them tough questions and issuing spiritual challenges. Teenagers seeking a cause won't find a better one than Christ.

-Taken from the March Newsletter of
The Parent Link, Teen Edition-



A Note from

RANDY

TRANSITION

When you hear the word "transition," what comes to mind?

- 1) The basic definition: "passage: the act of passing from one state or place to the next."
- 2) The title of the seventh album by the group Kenny Rogers and the First Edition
- 3) The physics of a mutation changing a purine to another purine nucleotide

Here's what I think of...First Baptist Dallas Student Ministry! We are definitely in the midst of exciting transitions (please refer to the first definition!) within our church and our student ministry. I believe these transitions are moving us toward becoming the most exciting, challenging, and inspiring place for students to be in the DFW Metroplex!

In case you haven't heard, here's what "transition" looks like in our ministry:

*Over the last three months, the church has hired a new Minister to Students (ME!), a new Administrative Assistant (TERESA!), and two new interns (CLAY and ARIEL!).

*In the next 6 months, we will move into new "temporary" places to meet for Sunday School and Solid Rock during the removal and the construction of buildings on our campus.

*Within the year, construction will begin on a new "state-of-the-art" building for students that will become THE DESTINATION POINT for students in the DFW area.

*And, to top it off, we have just hired another new edition to our team! Eddie Miles, our new Associate Minister to Students! He will be working primarily with our 7th and 8th grade students, although he brings a gifting and talent mix to our team that will impact every level of our ministry! Watch the First Edition for more information on Eddie and his family (wife – Autumn, kids – Grace and Jude).

Transitioning Together!

The high school breakaway retreat was fantastic! We had roughly 90 students attend the water-logged weekend. The praise and worship was led by Matt Wheeler and there were three group sessions about "Barriers" led by Randy...

1. Facing our Fears
2. Fear of Change
3. Fear of Failure

EVENTS

OUT TO LUNCH

Sunday, March 7th - Go out to eat with your Sunday school class after church.

SPRING BREAK SOLID ROCK

We WILL be having Solid Rock on March 17th.

WHIRLYBALL

The 10th and 11th grade SS classes will have a Whirlyball party on March 28th from 12 - 2pm @ Whirlyball Dallas.



Check out these pictures from the High School Breakaway Retreat!!!

(Go to our website for more pictures and go to our youtube channel for a recap video...)

Veteran youth pastor Jason Ostrander offers these tips for breaking through with kids who are jaded, bored, or apathetic:

1. **Be yourself.** When you are who you say you are, unengaged kids are likely to crack open their windows wider. Doing an honest assessment of yourself will turn into a priceless gift to yourself and your kids.
2. **Be a passionate, engaged observer.** Spend time studying your teenagers and work hard to understand what makes them tick. If we're not fully awake to our kids, we're just as dead as they are. Jesus always paid remarkable attention to the details people unconsciously revealed to him.
3. **Don't treat kids or spending time with them like just another box on your to-do list.** The last thing kids want to be is your latest project.
4. **Take a risk.** Engage teenagers through their (sometimes) hidden passions by providing a niche for them to succeed or grow. Often they need something beyond the "status quo" to get them going.

Keep In Mind...

March 7	Sunday School "Out to Lunch"	April 11	Operation-In-As-Much
March 10	Solid Rock - New Series Begins	April 25	Adult Leadership Mtg @ 12:30pm
March 28	Adult Leadership Mtg @ 2:00pm	June 14 - 19	Clarion Choir Tour
April 4	Easter	June 29 - July 6	Chapel Choir Tour
April 7	Solid Rock - New Series Begins	July 24-30	Beach Camp 2010!!!

Solid Rock



Randy finished up his February series entitled "War" last Wednesday, February 24th. Join us in March as we begin the series "Peeps" led by our new Associate Minister, Eddie Miles!!

WELCOME A NEW ADDITION TO THE STUDENT MINISTRY STAFF:

Eddie and his wife, Autumn, have two children, Grace (4) and Jude (17 months). Eddie has devoted the past seven years to student ministry - and plans to devote many more to First Baptist Dallas.

"My wife and I believe that God can, and wants to, change the world through First Dallas students," Eddie said. "It's our job to help them see this potential in their lives and inspire them towards it."

Student Minister Randy Riggins said, "I'm excited to welcome Eddie to our student ministry staff, not only because of his passion for our Lord, but also because of his heart for junior high students. His creative edge, as well as the value he places on building a strong leadership team, will be felt throughout our entire student ministry."



Choir



March 7 - sing in evening service



March 14 - sing in evening service
March 21 - sing in evening service

Garage Sale Preview: March 18
Garage Sale: 19-20, 26 - 27

Impact - Girls Bible Study



Impact @ Anna Sweeney's House

Impact is off to a great start this year! We have increased in our attendance and hope to continue to do so as the semester continues. Find us on our Facebook group page for updates and information about upcoming bible studies and hangouts...First Baptist Dallas - Girls Student Ministry! Check it out and encourage your teen girls to join us weekly!



Lake Trip over Christmas

LEADERSHIP MEETING



Sunday, March 28th from 2:00 - 3:30 pm @ Whirlyball Dallas! Don't miss this awesome hangout time!!



Focus on Prayer

Verse of the month

PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will be touched by God's love and become passionate about him—and passionate about living for him.
2. God will open a window for you to penetrate through any apathy that your teenagers experience.
3. Your teenagers will feel like their faith in God has been set on fire.
4. God will use you as an example to show that following Christ is the most worthwhile pursuit a young

"Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of [the believers]. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:3-4)

On Pentecost, known as the church's birthday, the early Christians were literally set aflame for God. Thanks to the Holy Spirit's power and presence, more than 3,000 people were added to the church that day. The same Holy Spirit can work miracles in hearts and lives even now.

FILMWATCH

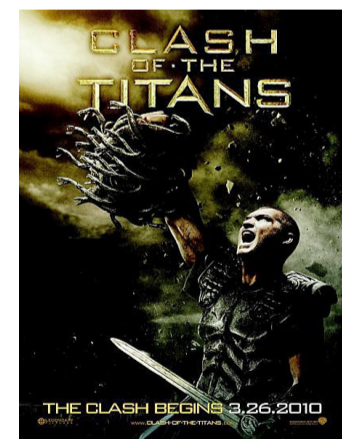
Movie: Clash of the Titans (releases April 2)

Genre: Action, Fantasy

Rating: Not yet rated

Synopsis: Born of a god but raised as a man, Perseus (Sam Worthington) loses his family to Hades (Ralph Fiennes), vengeful god of the underworld. With nothing left to lose, Perseus volunteers to lead a dangerous mission to defeat Hades before he can seize power from Zeus (Liam Neeson) and unleash hell on earth.

Discussion Questions: How powerful is Satan, compared to God? How would it affect your faith if God were vulnerable and could be defeated? Read aloud Mark 10:27. What do these verses say about God's power? Is God in control of everything that happens in our lives—even the bad stuff? Explain.



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