

# Dear Ignite Friends,

This is definitely *not* how we thought our year together would end! We've missed seeing your faces on Sunday night and hearing your thoughts, laughs, and questions but we are happy that everyone is home safe and healthy. We know that you are probably feeling a big mix of all kinds of things right now (relief, worry, fear, sleepy, stir crazy, lonely, relaxed, even happy) because us adults are feeling all those same things too. So the very first thing we want you to know is that **we care about you and how you're feeling**. We hope you are taking all your feelings (the good and the bad) to God in prayer so He can help you and to a trusted adult or friend who can help you too.

The next thing we want to pass on are some activities that can help you grow your faith during this very weird time in our lives. But before you go check them all out **please read:**

## **Wait, remind me again, what was the purpose of this year?**

To discover and experience your faith in the real world. Please remember that our goal was that you'd get a chance to ask questions, discover your faith in a different way, and see how your faith can connect to your real life. We wanted you to have a chance to escape the classroom and ditch the textbooks so that you could find what works for you. And this is **STILL** our goal!

## **No way can I do ALL of these activities!**

That's cool. We don't expect you to! I mean, if you want to, then great! We're giving you 9 different ideas to choose from in the documents that follow, grouped by the type of activity it is. **We're asking you to complete THREE (3) things out of those 9**. That's less than the number of classes we had to cancel! The activities are all different kinds so hopefully you can each find a few that speak to you. Pick and choose whatever you want based on what works best for you.

Also, if you have an idea in mind that you don't see here, let us know! This is YOUR faith journey, first and foremost. If you have an activity that you'd like to try to grow your faith or something you've already been doing, send us an email and we can absolutely discuss it.

## **When do I have to do them?**

We are all adjusting to this new virtual learning thing so we're giving you some space. The absolute latest you can turn them in is June 30th. We suggest trying to do one activity every other week though so it doesn't all catch up to you.

## **How do I turn them in?**

Email please! You can write your assignment right into the body of the email or attach a document, image or video. Whatever works for you. It can definitely come from mom or dad's email too. But please send your email in this format:

To: [MDPreligiouseducation@gmail.com](mailto:MDPreligiouseducation@gmail.com)

Subject: Ignite - (Your Full Name) - (The Activity or Activities You Completed)

This will help us keep all the emails organized so none of your work gets lost. Thanks!

## **What about next year?**

Complete three activities and that counts as your final attendance! Let's all keep praying that life goes back to normal in the fall and we can all see each other again.

Something to keep in mind though - This year was all about discovery. Next year will be about digging deeper and really making the commitment to becoming a confirmed disciple of Christ. We expect that those who make the choice to join the confirmation year program (Year 2) will be ready to make that commitment and take it seriously. If you don't feel like you're ready yet, that's completely ok. Just let us know. We will be encouraging anyone who doesn't feel ready yet to try another year of Ignite (don't worry the sessions will be different than they were this year). We will be sending more information about this home to your parents as well and we are here to help you have that discussion with your parents if needed.

Be honest with yourself about whether or not you are ready. The sacrament will be so much more meaningful if you choose it willingly and with joy.