

A little update from the Ignition Team

Hey Ignition Parents & Caregivers,

With the second half of the year underway, we thought we'd touch base and express our thanks for continuing to entrust your young people to us each Wednesday night. We count it a huge privilege to be connecting with young people at this pivotal stage of their lives, and are doing our best to create a fun, safe, and encouraging environment where they feel at home. As a team, we aren't experts, but we do have the benefit of being just a little further down the road than your teens, and we are praying we can play a small part in building the faith, character, and courage of those who come along.

Speaking of which, numbers have grown this year which is hugely encouraging. But growth brings its challenges, and we are having to scramble a bit to keep pace! We chatted with the group this week around expectations so we are all on the same page. For your benefit, here's the three simple "ground rules" that we shared to keep things ticking along smoothly at Ignition:

1. We honour to those who are speaking up the front - they deserve our attention
2. We honour each other - this is a space of welcome, kindness, and community
3. We are all-in with what's happening; we all participate and we stay together as a group

These are pretty straightforward, and because the teens are adults-in-training, we told them we need *them* to take responsibility for their actions. With our leaders volunteering their time and energy each week, we don't have the resources to be policing behaviour or making exceptions if someone doesn't want to play ball. For this reason, we will simply ask a person to remain at home if they are unwilling to follow our expectations, at least until there is an attitude shift.

From the above, you will be able to read between the lines and deduce that we've had a few behaviour issues! We reckon we've got things in hand, and clearly communicating our expectations is part of fostering the culture and atmosphere we love about Ignition. We look forward to a great second-half of 2023.

Finally, teens are very social creatures, and they may have told you to pick them up at 9:30pm or later so they can connect with their mates at the end. Ignition actually finishes at 9pm, and the leaders have packing up and debriefing to do, so we really need everyone out by 9:15pm to let us leaders get home at a reasonable hour. Thanks for your understanding on this.

If you want to stay in the loop with Ignition, Instagram is a great way to see a little of the action and get updates. <https://www.instagram.com/ignitionyth.hd/>

If you have any questions or need to get in touch, please feel free: email ignition@thevillagechurch.nz or call the church office: 07 829 4998

Thanks for reading all this! Blessings,

Liam & Alannah

