



Ignite - Week 3

5 Stones



Object: Spark Plug.

Talk: Each part is important, everyone matters, just as we stated in previous “Team Times.” We also stated, as a family, what will help you as a team is to realize that you are set apart, uncommon. Now the challenge is to understand that your role needs to reflect that of a spark plug.

What is the job of a spark plug? If I take the spark plug off my mower, will it start? Absolutely not. The spark plug is what helps start the machine.

“An automobile goes nowhere efficiently unless it has a quick spark to ignite things, to set the cogs of the machine in motion. So I try to make every player on my team feel he’s the spark.” Coach Knute Rockne
Does this world naturally push down people or ignite people into action? I believe that this world fails to naturally ignite people into action through positive encouragement.

Read the story of David and Goliath. Before David battled the giant, he stood before King Saul. The king doubted David’s ability, but eventually gave approval. When he approved David’s request, he then gave his armor to David. As noble of a move this was, did it help? No.

Putting a grown man’s armor onto a child was not exactly an act of encouragement. You have just made someone feel inadequate, real small, and unable to reach the task. In that moment, if David were to compare himself to Saul’s armor, he would have felt defeated.

Have you ever felt like you were being treated like a little child? Curfew, rules at home, lack of responsibility given to you by a parent, teacher, or a coach? No one likes being made to feel small. So what are we doing to make others feel big? What are we doing to ignite others into motion?

Every weekend you move into competition, what are you doing to encourage your teammates? If your friends were a mower, what are you doing to ignite their engine? If your parents were a car, what are you doing to ignite their efforts in parenting?

In week one of the 2009 College Football Season, Heisman trophy winner Sam Bradford went out during the first half of the football game with a shoulder injury. Suddenly, backup quarterback Landry Jones, a redshirt freshman found himself making his college football debut. Think Landry was ready for the challenge? I’m not sure if he was ready for the challenge, but I do know that one of Landry’s coaches became a spark plug for Landry. Walking down the sideline, Landry’s coach spoke words of hope and encouragement in an effort to ignite Landry into a positive direction. Let’s not wait for crisis to arrive before we begin to ignite others with hope and encouragement.

Leaders ignite the people around them. They inspire, encourage, and give hope to be victorious. The General Napoleon once said, “A leader is a dealer of hope.”

One of our greatest jobs is to spark others into motion. We have the power and the ability to make others feel large; large enough to compete and be victorious.

FOCUS: No matter what size or shape you are, you can make others move forward or stand still. Let's look at others with potential and not as problems, and enlarge them ignite them with positive words of encouragement.

DO HARD THINGS: Make it your intention to daily find three people you can ignite with positive words of encouragement.