

Kids Leading the Charge for God

David Spiegel

People still comment about how wonderful it was to see the kids leading the charge in pursuit of God! They are talking about Pentecost Sunday 2006 and an unforgettable Sunday night.

As children's pastors, we have many rewarding moments in ministry. But, I think most would agree, there is something special about getting to play a role in the life of a child reaching toward God and experiencing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. That's why the service last year stands out for me.

With multiple services each weekend, our church has Christian Education classes on Sunday nights. We hold special emphasis Sunday night services approximately once a quarter. Pentecost Sunday was one of them.

During a staff meeting leading up to the event, there was discussion as to whether we should provide an alternative for the kids due to the Holy Spirit emphasis. My position was that, if we want to raise up the next generation of Pentecostal kids, then we need to make sure they are around such services during the years they are most impressionable and receptive.

That is the approach we decided to take, with the Children's Department using that morning's services to prepare the kids for the emphasis. Our team worked hard to prepare a message for that Sunday morning to teach them about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and also to anticipate and answer questions that might arise from what they would experience that evening. As we prepared, I asked God to help us communicate effectively and to back up the message with a genuine experience for the kids in that very service.

Sunday morning, we could feel the Holy Spirit's anointing all through the service. When we reached our worship time, there was simply a sweet presence of the Spirit in the room.

One little girl in particular, eight-year old Macie, seemed deeply moved by everything taking place. I wrestled with the thought of moving straight to an altar time, but I felt in my spirit that I needed to continue with the lesson as planned. So, I turned to some of our leaders and instructed them to continue quietly praying with Macie while I moved forward teaching the rest of the kids.

At the close of the lesson, before asking the kids to respond, I began to explain what Macie had been feeling throughout the service was the Holy Spirit and that God wanted to fill her and them if they would truly reach out to Him. I then walked over to Macie, gave her some simple instruction and placed my hands on her to pray. Within seconds, she burst forth speaking in tongues for all to hear. God had provided a living object lesson! The altar time that morning was powerful as many other kids responded.

It was wonderful that evening to see how many kids showed up with their parents ready for what God had in store. Pastor Bryan Jarrett delivered a powerful message and called the altar workers to the front along with key children's leaders appointed and trained to pray with the kids. When the altar area was opened for prayer, many people of all ages came forward.

It was surprising how unintimidated the kids were as they made their way to the front to pray to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They had come to service ready to receive from God. More

than 25 boys and girls received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that night. Many more enjoyed an encounter with God like nothing they had ever experienced—leading the charge!

By David Spiegel

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