

TALK INSTRUCTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

You do not have to be an accomplished speaker to give a talk on an REC weekend. Have confidence in God's ability to work through you for the building of His kingdom.

You may not have been trained in speech or have spoken in front of a group, but others need to hear your story. God has given you a message for such a time as this weekend. Help is on the way. An outline is provided for your talk, and you will present it to the team members for preview and critique.

Know Your Audience

Most REC participants are Christians and come from a variety of denominations. Some participants will be more advanced in their pilgrimage while others are just beginning the journey of faith. They will be from a wide-range of backgrounds and cultures. We need to avoid controversial subjects that arouse division (ex. communion, speaking in tongues, etc).

Study Your Talk Topic

Read carefully and study the outline for your talk. You may want to discuss it with the Lay or Spiritual Director for the weekend. Another good source of instruction would be the notes you took on your street weekend. Talk to people who have given the talk in the past. Remember, this is your talk and you need to tell your story.

Look closely at the introduction in the outline as it explains the reason you are giving the talk. Follow as closely as possible the instructions in the introduction and outline as other talks remaining in the weekend will build upon your address.

Construct Your Talk Using the Outline

Each talk has a specific purpose and can be divided into three basic parts: **opening, main body, and closing.**

The opening should be designed to capture the interest of your listener, set the tone of the talk, and help put you at ease. It may be humorous, statistical, reverent, or a combination of these three. Most importantly, the opening should

directly relate to your subject. A joke at the opening would not be proper if your talk must be serious from the very beginning. Engage your audience by starting your talk with something you find interesting and will tie in with the subject of your talk. If you are interested and comfortable, your audience will also be engrossed with your subject.

The main body contains the core and purpose of your talk. Points covered here are the reason the talk is included in the weekend. Illustrations about a point will enhance and make your talk genuine. The ones from your own personal experiences are best because they relate directly to other people. You can also use humorous stories, quotes from famous people, and parables to illustrate your main point. Paper handouts and props can be useful, but props must be cleared prior to the weekend. Practice using props before your talk preview.

You should be very cautious about straying away from your outline as you may lose the interest of your listeners, **damage someone else's talk** or **harm the unity of the weekend**.

The closing should summarize your main points and pull them together in a creative way. I should assist your listeners in remembering the key points of your talk. The closing should be serious, may be tied in with your opening remarks, and should leave your listeners with a thirst for more information and a desire to take action. You should set the stage for the next speaker by suggesting more information will be provided in the following talks. **Stay within the time limit of your talk**, end on a positive note, and leave your audience with the feeling that they should know more about the subject.

The talks early in the weekend are more informational in nature while other talks allow more emotional content. You may have been chosen for a particular talk because of the special and personal experience you have had with the Lord Jesus. Talk to your Lay or Spiritual Director if you are concerned whether to include such experiences or how to address them.

Tips on Talk Delivery

- Keep within the appropriate time frame
- Use varied intonation, volume and emphasis
- Speak slowly and distinctly
- Maintain eye contact
- Incorporate fitting facial expressions

TALK INTRODUCTION INFORMATION

Talk Title: _____

Length of Talk: _____

Introducer: _____

Preview Date: _____

Day and Time of Talk During REC Weekend: _____

SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Each team member should ask a team leader to introduce them just before their talk. They will be notified at the appropriate time during the weekend. The introduction should last no more than one minute.

When the introduction is complete please say:

Get your pencil and notebook ready.
Open your mind and heart with a spirit of generosity.
Please Welcome:

Speaker's Name: _____