

SUBJECT: Sermonette Givers

QUESTION: What information, instructions, suggestions and guidelines do you have for sermonette givers?

ANSWER: How to Give Effective Sermonettes

Sermonette Content:

Sermonette givers should strive to feed the flock from the “trunk of the tree.” It is important that preaching be meat from the Word of God; basic doctrines, Christian Living, and Godly Truth.

Message Guidelines:

This section is only for the purpose of suggestion: It was created to help message givers to keep their messages close to basic doctrines and truth of God from His Word.

John 6:63 The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

John 21:15 Feed my lambs.

Hebrews 5:13-14 For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Suggested Topics:

Note that many of these topics are very broad for sermonettes so the speaker must strive to choose one specific “sub-topic” within these listed topics.

God
Faith
Gospel
Biblical Covenants
Healing
Fellowship

Psalms
Peace
Bible Study
Matthew 18
Courage
Encouragement

God’s Will
Bible
Repentance
Resurrections
Commandments
The Church

Relationships	Honor	Witnessing
Proverbs	Salvation	Loyalty
Longsuffering	Kingdom of God	Opportunities
Fasting	Principles of God	Ride
Belief/Believe	Sin	Protection
Character	Giving	Reputation
Endurance	Ministry	Satan
Gossip	Joy	Spiritual Gifts
Jesus Christ	Prayer	Suffering
Baptism	Sermon on Mount	Trust
Judgment	Giving/Caring	The Work
Annual Holy Days	Honesty	Lying
Mankind	Goals	Parents
Marriage	Judging	Priorities
The Family	Leadership	Purify
Gentleness	Morality	Resentment
Meditation	Praise	Return of Christ
Blessings	Productivity	Spiritual Growth
Money/Steward	Quality	Teamwork
Enthusiasm	Righteousness	Unfairness
Grace	Sickness	Worship
Holy Spirit	Stubbornness	Mercy
Laying on of Hands	Testing	Patience
Law of God	Weaknesses	Procrastination
Tithing	Light	Purpose
Angelic Realm	Offense	Respect
Children	Preparation	Serving
Love	Promise (s)	Strength
Goodness	Quarrels	Temptation
Revelation	Sacrifice	Unity
Thankfulness	Sincerity	Zeal
Dedication	Success	
Forgiveness	Toleration	

As stated, these are the broad topic ideas. The sermonette must be generated out of these broad topics. Let me give you an example using the broad topic of “Jesus Christ.”:

Now the best sermonette giver could never expect to even scratch the surface regarding Jesus Christ, but he can give a very good sermonette by taking one small aspect of Him and expanding on it.

I once gave a year-long series of sermonettes under the specific purpose of “Putting On Christ”. In each sermonette I discussed two elements of the make-up or character of Jesus Christ with the admonition to make these elements a part of your life. Notice the first 3 of these sermonettes I gave:

Sermonette 1

Point 1: Christ had a mission and He stuck to it.

Point 2: Jesus kept in constant contact with His Father.

Sermonette 2

Point 3: He believed in Himself.

Point 4: Christ had internal anchors

Sermonette 3

Point 5: He guarded His energy.

Point 6: Christ did the difficult things.

The SPS (specific purpose statement) for each was short and to the point:

“Put on Christ”

In each sermonette I never had the congregation turn to more than 3 scriptures even though I may have referred to one more scripture by quoting it.

Each sermonette never exceeded 12 minutes.

General Structure:

Every sermonette should have the following elements:

A Clear Succinct SPS

Rule of thumb: State the SPS as you come out of the introduction. Make it as short as possible. Can you state it in 6 words? How about 5 words? I like to strive for 3 word SPS statements like...

God is there.

Put on Christ.

Go to your brother.

Read the book.

Pray without ceasing.

Guard your tongue.

Conquer Fear.

Count your blessings.

Give all to God.

Never stop giving.

Try to repeat the SPS 2 to 4 times in the body of the sermonette.

Have a congregation-grabbing introduction.

The introduction must be interesting enough to peak their interest right away. It must also do one other thing.....lead them directly to your SPS.

I have found that the most effective introductions are painted pictures. Begin with an interesting story, an analogy, a parable, a narration or some astounding or mysterious facts. It can also be as simple as painting a picture for your audience.

Some find that a good question works as an audience grabber. A thoughtfully phrased question can immediately start the audience thinking and then you can lead them directly to a clear, short, concise Specific Purpose Statement.

Structure the Body

The most effective way I have found to structure the body is to compose it in modular sections or parts. There are several reasons for this.

It lends itself to smoother flow of words and facts.

It is easier to present.

It is easier to learn and retain.

It is easier to insert repeats of the Specific Purpose Statement.

If the Body of your sermonette is one large section, you run the risk of losing the audience in an avalanche of rhetoric. To be interesting, the audience needs time to breathe and take in what you just said. They also need to be reminded of what your point is. Remember, they are taking notes while they are trying to listen.

Breaking the Body into smaller coordinated pieces or parts allows you to effectively use voice variation, change the speed of your flow and to repeat your SPS. Each section is full of energy, excitement, and verbal punch. Each section proves or demonstrates your SPS. This is true whether you are informing, inspiring or persuading.

There are a number of presentation types that lend itself to modular section structure.

Compose a Conclusion

The best conclusions are quotations that summarize or drive home your SPS. Another great conclusion is a specific Bible verse that summarizes your SPS and offers that last measure of proof and truth.

Another effective method is to use an emotional perspective or plea.

A method that is always effective is to use the name of Christ, God or the Kingdom of God as an element of my conclusion because most every sermonette subject has its roots in these three most important elements of Life and Spiritual Growth.

Pray that Christ speaks through you.

Throughout the Bible, we are exhorted to pray to God for guidance and for power. After all the research and study and preparation, we are, in fact, preparing ourselves to be sued by God and Christ. True speaking success comes from the person that can fill himself with his subject then allow Christ to present the sermonette and fill those in the audience.

Sermonette Guidelines for the Feast of Tabernacles

Following are some guidelines that were published by me and given to a local man here in Seattle that will be giving his first sermonette at a Feast site. He gives sermonettes here locally. These guidelines are good anytime and not just at the Feast.

Checklist for Feast Sermonettes

A sermonette is defined as everything that happens from the time you get out of your seat until to sit down again after the sermonette is given.

General

- | | |
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| Do Accentuate the Positive | Do Not Have even one negative comment |
| Sermonette is joyous | Do Not Convince anyone to come over to the ICG |
| Sermonette is happy | Do Not Single out an individual's personal problems |
| Sermonette is ebullient (enthusiastic, lively) | Do Not Exaggerate |
| Sermonette is uplifting | Do Not Use radically descriptive terms |
| Sermonette is inspiring | Do Not Use radically offensive terms |
| Do Preach to the membership (not others) | Do Not Say anything that could be considered sexist |
| Do Preach the truth | Do Not Say anything that could be considered racial |
| Do Preach love and forgiveness | Do Not Say anything that could be considered political |
| Do Think about the needs of the audience | Do Not Use any scatological references (references to excrement; human waste) |
| Do Give them something tangible to take home. | |
| Do Offer scriptural advice and inspiration. | |
| Do Speak at the 8th grade level. Make it simple | |
| Do Not Have anything negative | |

Preparation

- Do Study your subject—Do a study paper on the subject.
- Do Know your subject
- Do Narrow it down—must fit SPS
- Do Give something that will be remembered
- Do Use anecdotes OR analogies OR stories
- Do Use difficult scriptures (explain one)
- Do Talk or greet as many people as you can the day you speak.
- Do Make great notes or even script the sermonette.
- Do Double check all Bible verses
- Do Use King James unless you are going for clarity, then state your reasons for the other version or translation
- Do Not Use philosophical concepts
- Do Not Use theories
- Do Not Use broad spiritual principles which are too broad for the time you have.

Delivery

- Do Pick a good seat close to the stage
- Do Walk briskly to the pulpit.
- Do Look at the audience a time or two as you approach pulpit
- Do Adjust the microphone
- Do Look up and smile
- Do Not Speak about any other group or church

Do Not Speak about any other agenda
Do Not Refer to anything about being a sermonette giver
Do Not Refer to anybody except possibly Garner Ted or Mark Armstrong.

Sermonette Structure

Do Use a short SPS
Do Repeat that SPS two to four times
Do have a catchy, interesting introduction
Do have a clear, distinct, even simple body
Do Use simple points---3 at the most
Do have good conclusion
Do Not Panic if you lose your place

Assignments to Speaker from Minister [these things take place between speaker and minister/mentor]

Do these Things in this Order:

- Submit a list of possible subjects with SPSs. See Prep Sheet to be given to minister or Feast elder:
- When one subject is selected, submit a list of points
- When subject confirmed, submit a study paper on the subject
- Submit an introduction.
- Conduct final briefing at Feast site.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Chris Cumming