**Five Steps to Create a 3-5 Minute Devotion or Speech**

**Step 1:** Pray. Ask God to give you inspiration and insight into your audience’s needs.

**Step 2.** Determine your purpose or goal for this talk. Write it down in one sentence:

I want to cause my listeners to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 3:** Think of a personal story that illustrates or sets the stage for your topic. Don’t meander into your talk. You only have 3-5 minutes. Start with a strong hook that immediately engages your audience and helps you connect with them.

You can use a humorous story,

a personal experience,

a series of questions,

a startling statement, fact, or opinion;

or a quotation.

**Let’s talk about why personal stories are one of the best ways to create that heart connection with your audience.**

**You need to establish quickly that you’re just like them, a woman who loves God and is living out His principles in the messy imperfect of your everyday life.**

Your audience also needs to trust you. This is key so that they’ll continue to buy into the rest of your message.

**A personal story is the number one best way to develop connection at the start of your message because it allows people to get to know you.**

Your audience immediately starts to think, *Okay, she’s not that different than I am.***Since you’re using your story to also introduce your audience to your topic, it’s a story with a purpose. Your story introduces *you* at the same time you’re introducing the problem that you want to give a solution to in your teaching.**

**Storytelling is a skill to develop, and one of my tips for storytelling is this: Be real.**

How do we communicate “realness”—a quality that audiences value and that builds an instant bond?

The most effective way to communicate that quality is to teach topics that we’ve lived out in our own lives. To me, that’s the heart of what and how I want to communicate.

I don’t want to stand on a stage and act like I’m an expert with life all figured out. If I do that, I’m the opposite of real—I’m unapproachable.

Remember, many people already have a faulty idea that as a speaker you’re a “super-Christian,” while they’re just ordinary.

When I speak from a place of authenticity, I’m speaking from a place where I’ve allowed Scripture to be such a part of me that it has changed me. **Now I’m able to say to my audience*, I’m passing on what God has taught me in my own life.*My opening story needs to convey this truth.**

There’s an added benefit to being real in our opening. When we’re telling a story that’s part of us and that we know well—a story that’s authentic and real—we don’t need our notes. We can relax without worrying that we’ll forget something, making consistent eye contact with the audience which is another powerful connector.

**Step 4:** Share a verse that supports your point. If you have two or three that could work, choose the simplest and most clear.

**Step 5:** Wrap it up with a strong call to action.

Ex. “So the next time you’re tempted to fear …”

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TEMPLATE FOR 3-5 MINUTE PRESENTATION

A. Purpose

I want to cause my audience to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by doing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Rapport-building and interest-catching introduction.

C. Point that supports the purpose

* 1. Supporting illustration

F. Application

G. Conclusion

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