



Preparing a Life-giving Message

There are certain key elements for preparing and sharing a life-giving Bible-based message or devotional. When adapted to your personal study time, you will discover that the Lord has given you Words of Life that can nurture others. Public proclamation is a skill that improves over time. This video will give you a great starting place for sharing in a nursing home setting.

The message:

- ❖ Be sure you have _____ your message. Keep the message uncluttered with details and stick to the point.
 - ❖ Four parts to a Bible study:
 - 1 _____
 - 2 _____
 - 3 _____
 - 4 _____
- ❖ Your message should address (usually only) one of the primary spiritual needs of the residents; and how the fulfillment of that need is found through the Lord Jesus Christ. _____, _____, _____, _____ (see page 2)
- ❖ A ten minute-message is often received better than a 45-minute message. One of the appreciated skills of a preacher/teacher is knowing when to stop.
- ❖ Avoid preaching on topics that have little meaning to people who are in their last years like: Paul's family line, old covenant practices that Jesus fulfilled, your opinions or discouraging current events, there are many *facts* in the Bible that we all need practical application for living today.
- ❖ Avoid preaching against the religious practices of others; lift up what is *right*, not what is *wrong*.
- ❖ Encourage residents' involvement with Scripture memorization and by asking questions.
- ❖ _____ with prayer. (The devil wants to steal the seeds that are planted, we can seal word in our hearts with a prayer of acceptance to the message.)

Before you leave:

- ❖ _____ with all residents before they go home.
- ❖ Leave the meeting room in order and cleaner than when you found it.

The Church Service / Bible study that you share in a nursing home may be quite different than the one you have at your church; however, it should be of no _____.



Four components of an effective message:

1. **Beginning** – Clearly present the Issue/Concern/Problem. This is usually the beginning of a parable, an event or principle recorded in Scripture.

Example:

2. **Middle** – Basic explanation of #1. Then, a focus on the intervention or instruction of the Lord.

Example:

This may include a related scripture:

3. **End** – Application; How do #1 & #2 relate to us today?

- a promise I can call my own?
- a command for me to obey?
- a blessing I can enjoy?
- a failure from which I can learn?
- a sin I should keep away from?
- a victory for me to win?
- a new thought about God, the Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Satan, people?
- a truth in this passage that has greatly affected me?

It is helpful to include an illustration or a personal testimony related to your main point.

There should be at least one Scripture to support your main point.

Example:

Main
Point

Parts 2 & 3 are the main points of your sermon or Bible study. Your main point needs to be focused on an attribute or action of Jesus Christ. For example, His:

Love	Suffering
Promises	Faithfulness
Willingness to help	Will & Commands
Relationship with the Father	Presence
Power & Authority	The Kingdom of Heaven

4. **Prayer** – Allow the audience an opportunity to verbally express their response to the message. (This could be through a written prayer, a hymn, quoting Scripture.)

Note: *We must be careful not to focus all our messages only on one theme; such as being saved. Our friends also need to hear about finding hope, peace, purpose, or forgiveness, persevering in trials; and even an occasional message that is not meant to challenge or instruct, but primarily to encourage and build up.*

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MESSAGE PREPARATION SHEET

You are welcome to copy for use within your care team



1) Beginning – Starting Scripture, illustration or question: _____

2) Middle – Basic explanation of #1: _____

What did Jesus do, say or promise?: _____

Any related Scriptures? _____

3) End – Application; How do #1 & #2 relate to us today? (This is where you share your main point). _____

My main point is: _____

Do you have an illustration or a personal testimony related to your main point?

What one or two Scripture(s) can you share to support your main point? _____

4) Prayer – (Sealing the message with prayer) How can you ask the Lord to intervene? (This could be a hymn or a Scripture portion; but all should be encouraged to verbally participate.) _____

Related songs to sing: _____
