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:

   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
   - Promises
   - Willingness to help
   - Relationship with the Father
   - Power & Authority
   - Suffering
   - Faithfulness
   - Will & Commands
   - Presence
   - 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.

   You are welcome to copy this page for your nursing home ministry 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:** ________________________________