

Third Thursday Notes

April 17, 2025 - How To Prepare A Talk

Do you want to improve your ability to connect with students in your talks, messages, devotionals, etc? Take a look at this practical approach to giving a talk.

Crystal Clear

- Before you begin any writing or outlining, you need to be able to articulate your entire talk in one sentence.

HEY!

- No one can learn inattentively. The first step is to secure their attention.
- Don't use "click bait" and make sure it connects to the overall message.
- Example: "Has anyone here ever heard of 'the unforgivable sin'?"

YOU!

- No one will give you their attention if they don't think it matters to them.
- Help them orient to see their need for the important truths you're teaching.
- Example: "If you don't understand what Jesus meant by 'the unforgivable sin', you'll likely live your life in fear that you're committing it."

LOOK!

- Now that they're invested, take them deep into truth; they want to go with you.
- Be logical in your approach; take them on a coherent journey.
- Example: 1) Here's what it isn't, 2) Here's what it is

DO!

- God's truth should always lead to response. If you can't see the response, look harder or teach another passage.
- Navigate between leaving it all up to the Holy Spirit (which is lazy) and scripting every response for them (which omits the Holy Spirit).
- Example: "So how does this affect us tomorrow morning? For some of you, God may already be bringing something to mind. For others, perhaps it might be worth..."