

Magnify Your Calling –  
13 Steps to Better Public Speaking  
Unit 1 – Preparation : Steps 1-5

Andrew King – March 2024

# Unit 1

## preparation overview

- It's critical for us to understand that public speaking first begins with preparation.
- We're going to look at five simple steps that will prepare us for a better, more positive, public speaking experience. An experience that will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our people through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Before we start however, it's important to note that these steps don't need to be done in any particular order. While they do follow a natural progression, they're meant to be more of a guideline rather than a hard-fast rule. With that being said, let's dive in!

Unit 1  
preparation  
steps

Step 1. Living your Calling

Step 2. Spend Time with God

Step 3. Organize your Thoughts

Step 4. Infuse Stories

Step 5. Meditate

## Unit 1 preparation

# Step 1. Living your Calling

First, you have start living out your calling. When I received my first speaking assignment, I was given at least three months to prepare. That rarely happens out in the field.

## Unit 1 preparation

# Step 2: Spend Time with God

Spend time in prayer, fasting, and study. Classes and sermons aren't there for you to tell the people what you want to say, they are there for you to learn what God wants you to tell the people.

## Unit 1 preparation

# Step 3: Organize your Thoughts

Once you have direction through the first two steps, now it's time to flesh out your thoughts and to organize them in a way that makes sense. What are the big takeaways that you want the people to have and go from there.

Unit 1  
preparation

## Step 4: Infuse Stories.

Stories are powerful. Jesus used them throughout His ministry on earth. Think how you might interweave stories and testimonies into your class or sermon.

## Unit 1 preparation

# Step 5: Meditate

Finally, mediate on your class or sermon and allow God to adjust it, but be careful not to over practice. Don't try to remember everything. Trust that God will show up in the moment.



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Unit 2 – Delivery: Steps 6-10

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## Unit 2 delivery overview

- One of the biggest public speaking mistakes I've ever made was when I tried to copy Arthur Oakman.
- He spoke with such confidence, power, and authority. He spoke *to* the people, not *at* the people. He spoke without notes. He spoke without filling his 60-minute sermons with 55-minutes of scripture reading.
- There is so much that I admired about his sermons, I wanted to imitate his preaching style.
- The problem was, as I'm sure you have already noticed, I wasn't Arthur Oakman. No one is.

## Unit 2 delivery overview cont.

- While it's good to admire someone's style and try to incorporate some of it into your own, it's a really bad idea to try and be like them when you speak.
- We each need to find our own style of speaking that mixes well with our personalities and gifts.
- God has made each of us for a unique purpose and that purpose isn't to be like another man, it's to be like Jesus Christ.
- The next five steps are not meant to dictate a particular style of preaching or teaching. They're meant to provide a few simple ways that we can grow in our ability to deliver the message that God has placed on our heart.

Unit 2  
delivery  
steps

Step 6. The Secret Power of Stories

Step 7. Connect, Inspire, Transform

Step 8. Body language and eye contact

Step 9. Speak to the People

Step 10. Action Items

## Unit 2 delivery

# Step 6: The Secret Power of Stories

Let's kickstart our discussion on delivery by revisiting the importance of stories. Stories are a secret weapon. They allow you to speak without needing your notes. Moreover, stories allow you to share with passion. Don't read your sermon. Don't just read scripture either.

## Unit 2 delivery

# Step 7: Connect, Inspire, Transform

Start your message by connecting with the people, be willing to be authentic and vulnerable. People don't get inspired if they're not engaged, and they won't engage with you unless you connect with them.

## Unit 2 delivery

# Step 8: Body language and eye contact

Don't stare at your notes, don't come unorganized. Look people in the eye. Find those who are nodding their heads to help boost your confidence early. Then start looking to others.

## Unit 2 delivery

# Step 9: Speak to the People

Make sure you're not speaking at people, speak to them. Read your audience. Don't go over their heads. Simplify your message and talk plainly.



## Step 10: Action Items

Finally, but certainly not least, leave the people with some practical action items. Don't just tell people something they already know. Don't just give them new information on a subject, tell them how to implement it into their lives!

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Unit 3 – Follow-through: Steps 11-13

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## Unit 3 follow-through overview

- After exerting a lot of energy to prepare your message, and even more to deliver it, now it's time to finally relax, sit back, and enjoy yourself. You've earned it. **WRONG!** Dead wrong!
- Please, do not fall into that trap. Satan wants you to pause and pat yourself on the back for a job well done.
- We're going to discuss just three more steps to a better public speaking experience by briefly touching on a few follow-up items that will keep you on the old, old path.

# Unit 3 follow-through Steps

Step 11: Don't Relax

Step 12: Review Your Message

Step 13: Embrace Constructive Criticism

## Unit 3 follow-through

# Step 11: Don't Relax

Make sure you have a priesthood visit, meeting, class, or some spiritual event scheduled after your sermon or class.

We tend to let down after we provide ministry which can be dangerous. Also know that you might find yourself being attacked before you give your sermon or class. This is normal.

Unit 3  
follow-through

## Step 12: Review your Message

Watch/listen to your sermon

Unit 3  
follow-through

## Step 13: Embrace Constructive Criticism

Ask someone in advance to help critic your message in love.

## Unit 3 conclusion

- As we have already discussed, poor public presentation, is a huge issue impacting the Church, and one that directly effects the spiritual condition of the saints. It's not something that we can afford to ignore any longer.
- Sermons make a large proportion of our worship, which means it has an oversized effect on the church. However, positive public speaking could open the door for the Spirit to work in a mighty way in the lives of our people.
- Remember that I didn't say flawless public speaking, I said *positive* public speaking. We just need to make small changes in the way that we preach or teach by improving our preparation, delivery, and follow-through.
- I know that God will pour out His Spirit upon us in a mighty way as we seek to grow in our ability to serve His people.