

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING: 13 STEPS TO BETTER PUBLIC SPEAKING

In this lesson, we will focus on three things. Namely, (1) how to prepare for a class or sermon, (2) how to improve our delivery, and (3) how to follow-through afterward so that we can continue to progress in our ministry. Below is a summary of the 13-steps that we discussed to better public speaking.

Unit 1: Preparation

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Unit 2: Delivery

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.
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.
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.
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.
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!

Unit 3: Follow-through

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.
12. Review your Message. Watch/listen to your sermon
13. Embrace Constructive Criticism. Ask someone in advance to help critic your