

TALK PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

1. Pray for the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Follow the talk outline. Make sure your talk achieves the objectives identified.

3. Keep it simple! Remember your audience and make sure your talk is understandable, well organized and easy to follow.

4. Adapt the talk to the "target audience". Characteristics of the target audience include the following:
 - 55 % are ages 16 and 17
 - 79% function below grade level
 - 70% of your audience is below average in intelligence
 - 72% have not grown up in a home where both parents live. Most do not have the same frame of reference for "family" as we do. Many have been neglected and/or abused by their families.

5. Use scripture. But remember many of the Stars have never read or been exposed to the Bible before so make sure the passages you are led to share are easy to understand and follow. Don't assume they are familiar with a verse.

6. Make sure personal witnesses are a major part of your talk. Use personal witnesses that illustrate the point(s) you are trying to make. Personal witnesses should fit the talk, not the other way around. Let the Stars get to know you through the talk. Be vulnerable! Our call is not to preach or make judgments - but to love. We do this by sharing that we aren't perfect either. We share the ways in which God has revealed himself in our lives. We share our failures and hurts without dwelling on how "bad" we are or how terrible something was that happened to us but on how "good" God is.

7. Remember to speak loudly and clearly. The tone of the talk should be conversational, lively, warm, and loving. Remember, you have an audience with short attention span.

8. Emphasize important points through repetition. If an idea is worth repeating, repeat it. Repetition helps the audience understand and remember.

9. Define key terms. Don't assume the audience understands the terms you are using.

10. Visual aids are essential. Simple, attractive, large visual aids help listeners understand and remember your talk. Pictures are especially helpful.

11. Maintain good eye contact throughout the talk. Use gestures and move around.