

# Teaching for Meaning

## Training Pack

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[www.ftw.pcnswwomen.org.au](http://www.ftw.pcnswwomen.org.au)

## Thanks for being brave enough to work on your Bible talk skills.

We look forward to seeing what you can produce when you give your talk online. In the meantime, let's get started!

### 1 *Find a mentor*

We strongly encourage you to ask someone to guide you, help you prepare and give feedback. This person may be a leader at your church, your minister or a friend experienced in giving Bible talks. If you draw a blank please contact us and we will aim to put you in touch with a Mentor.



### 2 **Check out some resources...**

There are so many simple, good books out there to help you in your preparation.

**David Helm** – Expository Preaching

**Gary Millar** – Read This First

**David Jackman** – From Text to Teaching

**David Cook et al**– How to Speak at Special Events (this includes how to prepare a Bible talk)

**There are also some very simple online courses.**

**Mike Raiter, Center for Biblical Preaching** has a 10 part video course with 5 minute lessons  
– [www.cbp.org.au/course](http://www.cbp.org.au/course)

**Expository Preaching Trust** has podcasts, preaching clubs and workshops – [www.eptrust.org.au](http://www.eptrust.org.au)

# 3 Pick a passage

Feel free to choose any passage you like and are comfortable with. Sometimes we can spend too much time just trying to decide what passage to talk on. So, we have made some suggestions in case you get stuck.

If this is the first time you have given a talk, passages from the New Testament with a clear, simple message are a good place to start.

## New Testament suggestions

### **Matthew 10: 25-37**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

### **John 18:12-27**

Peter denies knowing Jesus

### **Colossians 3: 1-17**

Holy living

## Old Testament suggestions

### **Psalm 62**

Trust in God alone

**1 Samuel 24: 1-22** David spares Saul's life (or a different narrative)

### **Daniel 9: 1-19**

Daniel's prayer of confession

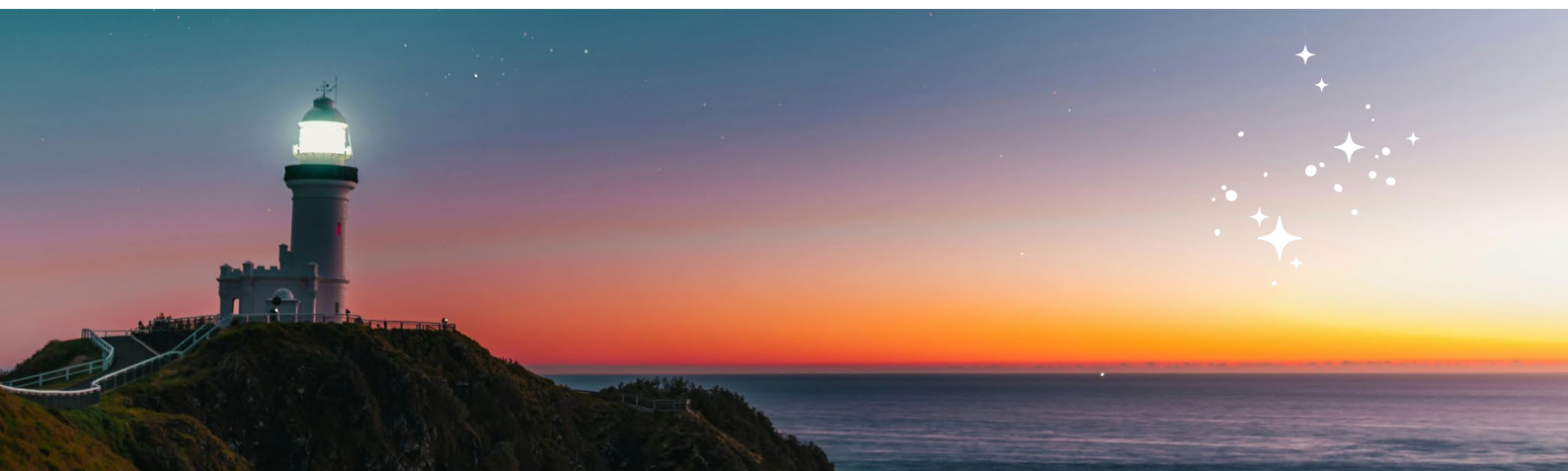
# 4 Preparing the passage

Get to know the context of the passage by reading surrounding chapters / the whole book / letter to help you gauge what is going on.

Then read the passage you aim to preach on several times. Different translations might give different emphasis and help your understanding.

Our aim is to let God's Word speak, not for us to use God's Word to illustrate our own ideas.

Listen to what the passage is saying.



## 5

## Exegesis Outline

Exegesis is the art of explaining or interpreting a passage. Exegesis literally means "to lead out of". Our aim is to bring the clear meaning of the text to our audience.

Here are some helpful questions to ask in preparing your talk:

What is the **context** of the passage? Who is it written by and why did they write this book? Who is it written to? What is happening before and after the passage? How does your passage fit into the story or flow of argument?

What would the passage have meant to the **original readers**? What message was the author intending to give them?

What is the **Big Idea** or main point of the passage? When you can express the central idea of the passage in a single sentence, it will help you structure, illustrate and maintain the focus of the talk. Perhaps turn the Big Idea into a question and the talk answers that question.

How does the passage point to **Jesus**?

This is especially important for Old Testament passages

**Application** - Why was this passage included in the bible? What is this passage teaching us today? What applications can I draw out?

What **illustrations** would help explain the Big Idea so that I can communicate clearly?

*You may find referring to a Bible commentary helpful at this point.*



# 6 Write your talk

**We are looking for a 15 minute talk. Writing a short, concise talk is harder than writing a long rambling one so be disciplined!**

After you have read your passage several times, read the surrounding passages, and answered the above questions, start writing down an outline.

Sentences should be short and avoid complicated or overly religious jargon. Keep in mind that when we speak our sentences are much shorter and more colloquial than when we write. You are not writing an essay. Your aim is to clearly communicate and explain what the passage is teaching us, not to show off your vocabulary.

*Don't forget to illustrate your main points and application!*

# 7 Practice your presentation

**Giving a Bible talk involves more than just writing it.**

- ◆ Practice speaking slowly, loudly and clearly.
- ◆ Make sure to vary your tone and pitch to keep your audience's interest.
- ◆ Eye contact is important as you want to relate to your audience.

# 8 Give your talk online

On either the 8th or 17th of May between 7:30-9:30pm you will give your talk during an online meeting.

Your audience will be members of the TTW committee plus a small group of (around 5) other delegates. We will all be there to encourage and cheer you on as you develop your skills.

# 9 Get Some Feedback

Honest feedback helps you grow as a speaker and Bible teacher. We would encourage you to ask a trusted Christian or mentor to read your talk, give some feedback, and maybe hear you practice.

After you present your talk online, we will ask those listening to tell you what they enjoyed about your talk.

While you present online, your trusted Christian friends and/or mentor can fill in the feedback form provided. Members of the TTW committee are also willing to provide feedback if you ask them beforehand.

# Feedback Form

**Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

	Comments
<b>How did the talk help me encounter and exalt the Lord?</b>	
<b>Was the big idea evident/obvious?</b>	
<b>Introduction:</b> engaging, make me want to keep listening, introduced the main idea	
<b>Faithful explanation of the text:</b> context given, clear explanation, well structured, straightforward language...	
<b>Application:</b> appropriate, clear, challenging, practical	
<b>Conclusion:</b> memorable, helpful	
<b>Was interest maintained throughout?</b>	
<b>Delivery style:</b> diction, audibility, eye contact, mannerisms...	
<b>Use of illustrations:</b> helpful, relevant, interesting....	
<b>Any areas to develop?</b>	