How to Give a Good Talk

Before the Talk

1. **Pray, Pray, Pray!!!!!!**
   - When we give talks we are truly speaking the Lord’s message and not our own.
   - Before doing anything, ask the Holy Spirit what the message of the talk should be.
   - Ask other to pray with or for you, especially right before the talk.

2. **Make sure you have a good grasp or understanding on your topic**
   - Start by reading Scriptural verses that speak about your topic.
   - Do some research on your topic.
   - Make sure you know the Church’s stance on whatever the topic is. (don’t be a heretic!)
   - Talk with others who may have a good understanding on the topic.

3. **Reflect on your own life to see how you have experienced the topic**
   - Try and pinpoint stories and experiences from your own life that relate

The Talk Itself

4. **Follow the Ecclesial Method**
   - **Preparation**
     - Introduction to the talk
     - Make your start intentional and with a purpose.
       - Start with a prayer or a Bible verse (or both!)
       - Do something that makes it clear that your talk is beginning
     - Have a strong attention getter to draw the audience in.
       - This could be a story or analogy.
       - Make sure it is relevant to the talk.
     - Give an introduction for what you will be speaking about
       - Lay out the basic outline of your talk.
       - Briefly overview the main points of your talk.
   - **Proclamation**
     - Come up with a phrase or sentence that ties in everything that you want to say.
     - Not a definition!
     - Make sure that it is brief and easy to remember
     - Could be a Bible verse a quote, or simply something that you came up with
     - Should be repeated many times so that the listener can come away from the talk with it memorized.
     - This should be the primary thing that you want the listener to come away with.
   - **Explanation**
     - This is the main portion of your talk.
     - Have 2-3 main points that are clear to the listener.
     - Incorporate stories and personal testimony throughout the talk.
- Make sure that it is relevant to the talk.
- Don’t try to make a stretch.
  - Make it relatable to the listener.
  - Incorporate Scripture throughout the talks.
  - Visual/auditory aids (art, movies, music, and literature) are extremely helpful but not necessary for every talk.
    - Incorporate video clips or songs that the audience may be familiar with
    - Don’t make a stretch.
  - Always have the talk centered on Christ.
  - Repeat the proclamation throughout the talk.

- **Application**
  - Give the listener an opportunity to respond to God’s call through the topic you speak on.
  - Challenge the listener.
  - Give them something to grasp on to and apply in their lives.

- **Celebration**
  - Say or do something that recaps the talk and brings it back together.
  - End as intentionally as you began.
    - Have a strong closing that makes it clear that the talk is coming to an end
    - Close in prayer

### After the Talk

5. **Review your Talk**
   - Ask yourself:
     - Did I cover everything that I wanted to cover?
     - Did I have a clear proclamation?
     - Was I engaging?
     - Were my points clear?
     - Did it flow with the rest of the night?
     - Did I use Scripture
     - Did I challenge the listener?
     - Did I mention Jesus (seriously! Sometimes we get so caught up in a topic that we actually forget to mention Jesus in a talk.)?
   - Ask others how your talk went.
   - If the talk happened to be on video or recorded, watch or listen to it.
   - Evaluate yourself and find the keys strengths and weaknesses of your talk.
   - Make sure you learn from your talk and always look to improve.

“When they take you before synagogues and before rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what your defense will be or about what you are to say. For the holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say.”

- *Luke 12:11-12*