

Men's Worship Training Workshop

Using Illustrations & Visual Aids In Sermons & Bible Classes

Using Illustrations:

1. Jesus told stories to help listeners remember a spiritual lesson.
2. Mark 4:30 – “*And he said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it?’*”
3. The gospels contain 46 parables Jesus used in his teaching.
4. The word *parable* is a derivative of two roots:
 - a) Para - "besides"
 - b) Ballo - "to throw"
 - c) It literally means to throw (or placing) something besides something else for the ultimate purpose of making a comparison.
 - d) Jesus used parables (stories) for the purpose of illustrating His spiritual lessons.
 - e) Story, illustration, analogy, anecdote
 - f) Jesus' *Parable of the Sower* (Matthew 13:18-23)
 - g) Parables make good material for sermons and bible classes.
5. Each of your sermons or lessons should contain a few illustrations:
 - a) Current events
 - b) Statistics
 - c) Personal stories and experiences
 - d) Humorous stories
 - e) Self-deprecating stories – this helps to show you don't take yourself too seriously. It conveys an attitude of humility. As opposed to stories that portray you as being smarter than everyone else, or a hero. Extreme egotism is a real turn-off to an audience and can obscure your intended message.
 - f) Avoid the extremes: No illustrations can make your sermons boring and uninteresting. Too many illustrations can de-emphasize your spiritual lesson.

Using Visual Aids:

1. The History:
 - a. **Jesus writing on the ground with his finger:** John 8:6-11 – *“6) This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7) And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, ‘Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.’ 8) And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9) But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10) Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ 11) She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’”*
 - b. Printed Bibles
 - c. Chalk boards.
 - d. Bedsheet sermon charts.
 - e. Maps
 - f. Pictures for children
 - g. Printed sermon outlines and Bible lessons.
 - h. Overhead projectors
 - i. Microsoft Power Point presentation; Apple Keynote and Pages presentation.
2. The only drawback to visual aids is the time of preparation. This fact discourages their use which is unfortunate.

PowerPoint Tips:

1. Don't overload each slide with too much information
2. Try to stick with one slide style throughout your presentation (i.e. colors, font type, etc.)
3. Don't use a font size less than 20 point. Your page titles and subheadings can be much larger.
4. There are several design options and you can download additional ones. When you are beginning this is a good way to start.
5. Be sure your font colors show up well with your background choices. There is a quality difference between your computer screen and the projector screen.
6. Slide transition types and animations can make your presentation “pop”. But be careful not to go overboard and make it become a distraction.
7. I include most of the scriptures in my presentation, so people will have an easier time keeping up. Another reason is to help visitors that may be unfamiliar with the Bible.
8. Pictures and images can be found in search engines like Google images. Check pictures very carefully to make sure they are appropriate.
9. You may want to practice using PowerPoint before giving your sermon to the congregation.

Creating A PowerPoint Presentation From A Sermon Outline:

1. Title: What Hinders Me From Being Baptized?
2. Individual Points:
 - a. Lack of faith – Mark 16:16
 - b. Lack of repentance – Acts 2:38
 - c. Lack of understanding – Acts 22:16
 - d. Lack of understanding in should be baptized:
 - Someone who can believe and repent – Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38
 - Someone who accepts they are a sinner – Romans 3:23
 - e. Rejection of God’s counsel – Luke 7:30
 - f. Procrastination – Acts 24:25