

The Studio

EPISODE // GIVING A DEVOTION

When being a part of a youth group, a sports team or a club at school, you might get asked to lead a devotional for your peers. You know, a five-minute thought that includes scripture, story, and prayer. I know it's intimidating but it can be a devotional that leads a friend to Christ and it can be your message that was said at the right time in the right place for that teammate or friend who's going through a hard time.

We are the vessels of God and this is one of the ways that we can live out our call as Christ followers. When done well, your devotional could be the spark of hope in someone's life, an answer to a question that your fellow youth member has been struggling with for quite sometime, a reminder of God's love and presence in our lives to your classmate that has been struggling with his faith recently, or a message of hope and comfort for that senior in your youth group that doesn't know where his/her next step will take him/her.

Here are a few tips for you about how to give a devotion.

- ✧ **Know why you are giving the devotion.** It's not about impressing your friends or showing off your knowledge of the Bible. It is about encouraging a life of devotion and sharing a message that has been meaningful in your life with others.
- ✧ **Start with a passage of scripture that is familiar to you.** Maybe a favorite verse or a verse of significance in your life. Talk through one of Jesus' parables or look through one of Paul's letters and if you're looking for something different look through some of the wisdom given in Proverbs. Try to understand the context of the passage and then give it context in your own life. Make sure you can make a lesson out of the passage you choose. If you want to choose multiple passages, go for it, but make sure you can relate them.
- ✧ **Relate the lesson to your own life.** Try to give a specific example in your life instead of being vague. Tell a story. Make sure your lesson can relate to others so we get that this scripture is important to you and has played a role in your life. Now, how can it play a role in our lives? Your story or devotion doesn't have to be extraordinary. Remember, God works through ordinary people and ordinary times and places. Think about those that will be hearing your message. How can you make it applicable to specifically your audience?
- ✧ **Be prepared.** It is a good skill know how to give a lesson on the spot, but for a devotional, there is no reason to not be organized and prepared even if it is for a very casual occasion. You should be looking to do your best for them and for God and winging it is not going to be your best.
- ✧ **Ask for help.** Ask one of your ministers or church leaders for help. The best way to learn is from asking for help and we can always benefit from shared wisdom.

I hope these tips have helped you, and I hope you find them useful the next time you're asked to give a devotion. Be confident. God will be with you, and God will use your words to encourage someone else's life.