

Writing a Wednesday Devo

1 Guidelines

1.1 What a Devo Should Be

- A lesson which asserts one basic point
- A lesson with a positive or thought-provoking point
- A lesson based on one Scripture/Passage
- A lesson not longer than 3-5 minutes

1.2 What a Devo Must Not Be

- A lesson that tries to explain a doctrine or persuade to a point of view
- A lesson with a negative or critical point
- A lesson based on many Scriptures, or worse, no Scripture at all
- A lesson any longer than 5 minutes

2 Process for Devo Writing

2.1 Text Selection

Find a Biblical text that interests you. Select the version you will read it from. Read it and consider its context in its chapter. Make sure the passage is plain enough to discuss in just a short lesson. It is helpful if you have a complete sentence or paragraph. Paragraph translations will help with this.

2.2 Main Point

Make observations about the text. What is the author/speaker saying? What can we learn from it? Write down the **one** main point you want to convey from this text.

2.3 Application

Think of one practical application of your main point for the people who hear this devo. It should not be (1) shaming people for something, (2) a personal pet peeve, or (3) a rebuke of the congregation. What situation does your main point apply to in everyday life? How can the people who hear your devo apply this idea tomorrow?

2.4 Invitation

The devo will by custom end with some sort of invitation. It does not need to be a long or emotional appeal. The audience on Wednesday night is made up of members of the church primarily. The invitation should offer the opportunity for anyone to respond for prayer or confession “or other needs.” You may mention baptism if you wish, but remember that most of the audience has been baptized, so don’t think of your lesson as an evangelistic sermon.

3 Delivering the Devo

3.1 Reading a Manuscript

If you are unsure of yourself, you may want to write down every word you want to say in a manuscript. There is nothing wrong with taking the manuscript with you and reading it. The advantages of doing this is that it allows you to practice your exact wording, time the length of your devo, and protects you from forgetting things if you get nervous.

3.2 Working with Notes

Others will prefer to work with notes. Your notes contain just a brief summary of the things you wish to say. This type of delivery will sound more natural to the audience versus reading from a script. On the other hand, an outline tempts you to invent new content on the spot, and that tends to lengthen your devo. Beware!

3.3 Nuts & Bolts

When delivering the devo, go to the pulpit on the stage. Adjust the microphone to the proper height and speak directly into it. If you leave the pulpit area, you will not be picked up by the microphone, so hold still.

When you are finished with your devo, the song leader will come up for the song. You should stand below facing the congregation to greet anyone that needs to respond to the invitation. In the event of a response, you are **not** expected to do any more than help the person to a seat on the front row. If an elder or minister does not immediately come to the front to assist, signal one during the song.

While there is no formal dress code for our more casual Wednesday night service, the elders would appreciate it if you did not wear anything distracting when you deliver your devo.

4 Sample

- **Text:** Mark 13:1-2
- **Observations:** Jesus is speaking to his disciples. The disciples are impressed with the temple. Jesus is not. He goes on to foretell its destruction.
- **Main Point:** God does not see things the way we do.
- **Application:** We should think about how we see people and everyday things in our lives. How do we judge others? Do we value the right things?