

Resource Ministries
STM2 - Communicating God's Word
COMMUNICATING GOD'S WORD USING DIFFERENT MEDIUMS

I. Definitions:

- A. **Communication:** a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behaviour
- B. **Communicate:** to transmit information, thought, or feeling so that it is satisfactorily received or understood
- C. **Medium:** An intervening substance through which something else is transmitted or carried on. An agency by which something is accomplished, conveyed, or transferred.

II. Biblical Permission:

- A. God created all things to be used for His glory--therefore we can feel free to use whatever we can to further the communication of God's Word to help meet the specific needs of those to whom we are ministering. Pray for the liberty to use this creation to communicate His Word.

*"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your **will** (pleasure, desire KJV) they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11*

- B. Jesus used whatever He needed to communicate His truths.
 - 1. Parables (symbolic stories which communicated his truths) Sower (Matthew 13:3) Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11) etc.
 - 2. Physical needs: a boat (Luke 5:1-3) etc.
 - 3. Illustrations

III. Why Bother? How people learn: God created us with 5 different senses--the more we employ in learning--the more we will grasp the information.

- A. Hearing 15%
- B. Seeing 50%
- C. Saying 75%
- D. Doing 90%

IV. Basic questions that need to be answered whenever teaching. Answer these questions and then select the medium/method that will best accomplish your goal to successfully communicate the material.

1. **Why** are you communicating? What is the reason you are spending your time and the audience's time? Have a definite goal in mind.
2. **What** message are you trying to communicate? What are the specifics of this lesson? The points that you want your audience to satisfactorily receive and understand?
3. **Who** is your audience? Age, background, type of setting, number, Christian or non-Christian?
4. **Where** are you communicating? Outside, inside large room, one on one, small room?
5. **How** are you going to communicate this message? Which of the mediums will best cause your audience to receive and understand the information, thoughts or feelings that you have deemed important?
6. **When** are you communicating? How much time do you have--so how much time can you give to set the scene, grab attentions, etc.?

V. Some different examples of Mediums:

- A. Illustrations: Material used to clarify or explain. Visual matter used to clarify or decorate a text.
- B. Props: simple objects used to capture attention, enhance material
- C. Puppets: masks, paper bags, socks, etc. Used for review (memory verse etc.), introductions, ice breaker, attention grabbers, story telling, role playing, scene setting
- D. Drama/skits/Role playing/ Story telling. Communicates Bible stories, modern life application, or concepts
- E. Object lessons/Flannelgraph. Attention grabbers, memory verse introductions or reviews, illustrating concepts that are perhaps difficult to grasp by word only
- F. Games/Puzzles, Quizzes/ Sword Drills. Helps with reinforcement, ice breakers, class involvement, reviews
- G. Crafts. Reinforcement,
- H. Art/murals (Creative Writing and "physical "art) Illustration of point, helps teach evaluate if the students "grasped" the content, individually or in groups
- I. Music. Reinforcement, instruction, mood setting,

- J. Videos/slides
- K. Small groups: discussions, debates, research and then share with larger group
- L. Lectures

VI. Guidelines:

- A. Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit the True teacher to inspire you.

Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: "O Lord, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born." Judges 13:8 (NIV)

We can pray for the Holy Spirit to inspire us, to cause us to be creative in our use of materials and mediums. Practice waiting on Him--asking Him for new and creative ways to deliver a truth that will be applicable to the current situation you are in.

- B. Focus on message--not on medium. The Medium must enhance the "meat" not distract from it.
- C. Always have a definite purpose in mind for every part of the lesson.
- D. Be prepared. You must be familiar with the medium you are using. Make sure you have everything you need in order and ready to go
- E. Use them as seasoning--lightly spread throughout the lesson. They are in themselves not the "meat" of the lesson--it's the Word.
- F. Use them as reference points for future lessons. (Remember when....
- G. Make sure you use materials your target group can relate to. Keep things up- dated.
- H. Remember: Communication has not happened until it has satisfactorily been received or understood.

VII. How do you know this has taken place?

- A. By Observing changes in behaviour: watch as you are teaching to see if body language, facial expressions and classroom climate shows they are with you.
- B. By Reviewing: Just ask! Also the use of reviewing questions or mediums can help

- C. By Evaluation: Take time at the end of your sessions to review in your mind areas that you felt were successful, areas that you might change in the future--learn from your experience.
- D. By Faith: *so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)*

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