Sharing a Devotion

This theological compendium provides an overview of how to prepare and share a devotion.

A devotion is sharing what the Lord is teaching you through the Scripture and how the Lord is using the Scripture to transform your life as you study His Word.[1] A devotion is not sermon, it is not an exegetical paper, it is not just your personal story or an opportunity to explore your passions or political views. A devotion is sharing the meaning of specific passage and then how that meaning is meaningful (application). Always start and focus on the actual meaning of the passage and be careful not to read your own personal experiences into the passage.

I. Consider Sharing a Devotion.

Please first examine your heart to make sure your devotion is an overflow of both your prayer life and your personal Bible reading/study time in the Scriptures. Also be sure that you have no ongoing, unconfessed sin in your life. The devotion needs to be from the Scriptures but also include what the Lord is showing you through the Scriptures. If you don't know how to have a personal Bible study time or need help, please ask one the ministry leaders and they can provide some help.

II. How to Prepare your Devotion.

We suggest you choose a single passage or paragraph of Scripture and not just isolated verses. Then begin to read this passage every day and ask the Lord to help you understand what the Biblical author means. Avoid phrases like, "here is what it means to me" or "I feel it means this." Always start off by asking yourself what the Biblical author means. As an example, if studying Colossians 2, then ask yourself, "what does Paul mean here by these verses" and ask, "how does this passage relate to other parts of Colossians."

Be sure to look at few good Bible study tools. Many study Bible notes are helpful. We also suggest reviewing the online commentary notes by Constable at https://soniclight.com/. You can also do further study from the BibleHub, https://biblehub.com/ or Bible Project, https://bibleproject.com/. However, be careful not to substitute these good study tools for how the Lord is using His Word in your life. As you begin to grasp the meaning of the passage, begin asking yourself how the meaning of the passage relates to you and others- this is application. Then you can start putting together your devotion. Be aware that Satan our adversary will seek to hinder you from sharing so stay alert. Always feel free to ask other leaders for help if needed.

III. What Not to Do.

Please do not lead a devotion if you are unprepared or if you are not walking close with the Lord. Simply call the ministry leader and share your concern and ask them to pray for you. Avoid using words and phrase to impress others - remember God alone is our audience. Please stay focused

---

[1] All material copyright to David Mappes, PhD (2025, all rights reserved); we do provide services to edit, refine, customize articles and material, etc. for ministry outlets, newsletters, training courses and other venues. Please contact me through the link on my web page, https://www.davidmappes.com/

on the passage and avoid long winded stories, long illustrations, any form of gossip and any kind of political comments.

IV. How to Share your Devotion.

Plan your devotion for the time allotted to you. Please do not exceed the time limit of the devotion since other ministries will need to take place. Arrive early and be fully prepared. Practicing a few times before you share can be very helpful. We suggest you ask someone to open in prayer, then share your devotion, and then close in prayer. Most believers are seeking the Lord's best in our lives, and we strive to help one another. So, if someone makes suggestions on how you can improve your next devotion, please receive their suggestions with an open heart.