

How to do a Devotional

A quick reference guide 5/16/2025 version 2

S: Start With a Story

T: Take Them to the Truth

E: Offer Encouragement

P: Personal Application and Prayer

K: Keep

I: It

S: Short

S: Slick

One Topic / One Point

Some topic examples:

Grace (leads to forgiveness),

Faith, Endurance,

Being the light,

Forgiveness,

Trust,

Doing the right thing,

Leadership,

Habits,

Obedience,Attitude, Fairness, Honestly, Revenge, Judging, Generosity, Blame, Brokenness, Patience. There are thousands of topics.

Time: 5-7 minutes 5 is better. Anything over that and it becomes a sermon.

Keep in mind that if it's August and we are standing in the sun at the boat ramp after a tournament, the last thing the fishermen want to do is listen to a sermon. We can do more harm than good if we make it too long.

Start With A Story

Begin with a story that relates to the audience, illustrates the point of the devotional message, and grabs your readers' attention or piques their interest. You can use a personal story from your own life or a story from the Bible or from someone else. **An important thing to remember is Jesus taught us with stories. We can teach others by doing the same thing.**

Know your audience: age, gender, the event you are at tells you a lot.

Here are some examples showing what the story could be built on:

Farmers - crops, tractors, weather, seeds.....

Cowboys - ropers, barrel racers, horses, cows, buckles, judges, points, rules, branding, hats....

Fishermen - lures, baits, boats, equipment, lakes, tournaments, fishing stories, competition, weather....

Hunters - guns, a game type, weather, equipment, traps, archery, skills, side-by-sides....

Take Them to the Truth

After you have snagged your reader's attention the next step, and the most important, is to lead them to the truth. Here is where you want to share the verse or passage of Bible scripture that you are building your message on.

- Search for your topic in the Bible using your computer or smart phone online. Use online Bible commentary to make sure it's in context.
- Apply the truth with the Bible passage in context. This is a must for a successful devo.
- Personal story outcome.

Encouragement

After you share truth from God's word, the next step is to offer encouragement. How can you inspire them towards faith and godliness? How does it speak to different pain points? Consider these things as you offer your encouragement. Think about what is **God's promise?** There is a book called ***"Touchpoints for Men"*** and at the end of each touch point, there is a promise from God.

Here is an example of the touch point called **LOVE**, and the promise from God is in ROMANS 8:39 | No power in the sky above or in the earth below-indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Close with a prayer.

Other points:

- It's ok to borrow from others.
 - ***"Touchpoints for Men, God's Answer for your every need"*** Contains 230 topics relevant to men. Each topic contains two to three life-related questions, Scripture that answers each question, and helpful notes. God's promise could be used as your encouragement.
 - ***"A Look at life from a Deer Stand"*** devotional by Steve Chapman
 - ***"Catch of the Day"*** 365 daily devotionals by Jimmy Houston
- Use illustrations if needed.
- You can have questions but don't forget about the time.
- Pray about your devotional. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- The more you are in the word the easier it is to do a devo. The more you do a devo, the more you are in the word.
- One topic, 5 minutes.
- If you need help, you can call on the club's leadership to guide you.