

Dear Friend,

We are looking forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Speak Up Conference, July 13-15, 2017. As you know, we will be meeting at The Prince Center, 1800 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, on the campus of Calvin College.

One of the unique aspects of the seminar is the opportunity to participate in two small group presentations. Please note the instructions for both of these assignments, which will give you the opportunity to prepare in advance. Each of the assignments will be fully explained during the seminar, but please come prepared. (If you prefer to be a listener rather than a participant during the small group times, this option is open to you.)

**Session 1 Thursday evening:** You will be introducing yourself (3-minute maximum) or, you will be giving a personal illustration with a spiritual application (3-minute maximum).

**Session 2 Friday afternoon:** You will be giving a mini-Bible study or devotional that could later be expanded into a longer presentation. If you would rather choose your own scripture rather than what is suggested, you are welcome to do so. (3-minute maximum)

If you have any questions feel free to email me. Bring your Bible and a pen. Let's be much in prayer for a tremendous weekend together!

Warmly,



Bonnie Emmorey, Seminar Director

### **The Homework:**

#### **Session One Assignment Option 1:**

##### *INTRODUCE YOURSELF*

In your small group you will be introducing yourself. **(3-minute max)**

- Begin with a line that will get our attention and cause us to want to know more about you.
- Briefly tell us the highlights of your life, including talents, family, hobbies, or work experiences.
- Share any burden you have carried that could help someone else.
- Tell us what you hope to learn as a result of attending this "Speak Up" conference. (Try to make this aim specific and reachable.)

## Session One Assignment Option 2:

### *A PERSONAL ILLUSTRATION WITH A SPIRITUAL APPLICATION*

1. List five personal experiences you have had that might make good illustrations in a message.
2. Now **choose one** of these "growing experiences" and answer the following questions:
  - What emotions did I experience while living through this chapter of my life?
  - What spiritual lesson did I learn from this experience?
  - Write down any Scripture verse or passage that comes to your mind as you meditate on what happened.
  - How could my willingness to tell this story help another person?
3. Prepare to share this personal experience with your small group. Your illustration can be no longer than **3-minutes** and should include the following:
  - A line to get our attention (the rapport step)
  - A concise, description of what happened (delete all extraneous wording)
  - A verse or scriptural principle that helped
  - An application for your audience (could be a statement or a question)

REMEMBER: Never use an illustration just because it's a good story. Be sure it has a spiritual application that will help you to accomplish your aim in a particular message.

## Session Two Assignment:

### *MINI BIBLE STUDY or DEVOTIONAL*

1. Read the following scripture passages:  
James 1:2-5      Joshua 24:14-15      Psalm 139:13-16      Esther 4:14      I Cor.  
6:20  
Phil. 3:13-14      2 Cor. 4:7-11      Exodus 4:10-12      Rev. 2:4-5      I John  
1:5-7
2. Choose one of the verses or passages and prepare a **3-minute** Bible study for your small group meeting. (Or, use a passage of your own choosing.)
3. In your presentation try to include:
  - A brief rapport (a line to grab our attention)
  - Scripture reading or passage summary
  - A short outline (the systematic listing of the most important points)
  - Illustrations or quotations to bring warmth and clarification to your main points
  - Conclude with a challenge for your audience that will help them to apply this scripture to their own lives. (This could be an application question.)
  - Use a visual aid if you desire.

REMEMBER: It's harder to speak for a short time than it is to speak for a long time. Choose your words carefully. Time your presentation at home to make sure you can do it in **3-minutes**.