

Biblical Presentation Workshop for Families & Clubs

Based on an archived Intensive prepared by Amy Joy Tofte, Melinda Speece, Bruce Bigler and Halina Speece, this Biblical Presentation Workshop is for families and clubs.

Each of the 4 sessions is designed to take about 20 minutes and can be compressed or expanded to meet the needs of your family or club.

Introduction to Biblical Presentation

Let's start with the definition. Biblical Presentation is *an interpretation speech that explores one or two selections of Scripture using visual aid(s)*.

Biblical Presentation allows students to bring Scripture to life for an audience, like other interpretation speeches. In addition, students participating in Biblical Presentation will:

- Explore biblical passages. Students go deeper in their knowledge and understanding of Scripture.
- Make connections. Students learn to tie selections together into a cohesive performance.
- Learn to use a visual aid. Biblical Presentation is the only event that permits the use of a visual aid. Using a visual aid allows students to enhance and enliven their performance.
- Edify the audience. Biblical Presentation is an invitation for students to share what God has been teaching them and highlight much needed truth.

As you prepare, please consult the following resources from [NCFCA.org](https://www.ncfca.org).

- [Biblical Presentation Rules](#)
- [Biblical Presentation Ballot Sample](#)

As well as sample speeches from [NCFCA's YouTube channel](#), including:

- [2022 Biblical Presentation Champion, Gracean Burson](#)
- [2023 Biblical Presentation Champion, Graecen Burson](#)

There are four main components to a Biblical Presentation: the theme, Bible passages, narrative sections, and delivery, including one or more visual aids.

Let's look at each one.

Session 1: Develop Your Theme

There are a couple of ways to begin the process of preparing a Biblical Presentation. One way is to pick an overarching theme that you want to develop throughout the speech. We will look at developing your theme in Session 1.

You can also start with a Bible passage. We will look at this in Session 2.

A theme is the overall message that you want to communicate to the audience through your Biblical Presentation. It can tie all the aspects of your speech together—narrative sections, Bible passages, and delivery.

Here are some examples from past Biblical Presentations.

- The Lord is close to the broken hearted (from Psalm 34:18).
- Prioritizing worship of our Holy God.
- Trust the Lord with all your heart (illustrated by the life of Peter).

If you pick your theme first, you want to make sure all the other aspects support, illustrate, and explain it for your audience.

Activity

Let's brainstorm themes. Using this series of questions, take two minutes per question and try to write down at least three potential topics for each. Remember, it is brainstorming so there are no "wrong answers."

- What sermons, family worship sessions, worship songs, or Bible studies have resonated with you recently?
- What biblical principle have you seen in a new light recently?
- What is a lesson that God has been teaching you?
- What is a teaching of Jesus that convicts or surprises you?
- What is a biblical principle that you think Christians neglect?
- What is something you would like to encourage all believers to think, feel or do?

Now, ask 3 questions to narrow down your ideas.

- Which theme(s) do I love?
- Which will connect with the audience?

- Which will invite growth for me and the audience?

Finally, pick one idea to be your working theme.

If you are in a group setting, have the students share their working theme.

Session 2: Select Your Scripture

If you started with the theme, the next step is to pick 1-2 Scripture passages to bring that theme to life. (As mentioned above, you might pick your Scripture passage(s) first and then find the theme that is revealed in them.)

There are many verses about the tremendous benefits of memorizing Scripture. Verses like Psalm 119:11: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (ESV) and Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (ESV) demonstrate this.

Biblical Presentation is a wonderful way to memorize Scripture!

Remember, according to the definition of Biblical Presentation, you can have 1 or 2 passages. Here are other elements to consider as you select your Scripture.

- Choose a continuous Scripture selection or selections from the KJV, NKJV, ESV, NIV, or NASB translations of the Bible. Selections may span more than one book if the two books are consecutive. Unlike other literature selections, you cannot cut or change selections from the Bible.
- The passage should clearly highlight the theme for the audience. While a passage may have more than one theme, your theme should be clearly demonstrated in the passage.
- Pick a passage that is personally meaningful to you.
- If you want to have more than one passage, ensure this one can connect to other passages.
- Consider the lessons embedded in the passage.
- Remember this is an Interpretation speech. Look for a passage with rich characters, and vivid scenes you can bring to life for your audience through characterization and blocking.

Activity

Let's practice brainstorming Scripture selections that illustrate a theme. For each theme, set a timer for 2 minutes and try to write down at least three passages from the Bible that contain or illustrate the theme. *If time permits, share some of the ideas after each one.*

- God equips the called
- The beauty of creation
- God's ways are not our ways
- Good wins over evil
- Talk less
- Love your neighbor
- Choose wisely
- Stand firm

Now, let's turn our attention to your working theme. Take 5 minutes and list all the Bible passages you can think of that explain, illustrate, or support your theme.

As you look over your list, ask questions based on what we discussed earlier in this session.

- Does this passage clearly highlight my theme?
- Do I love this passage?
- Is this passage powerful?
- Could this passage connect other passages?
- Does this passage teach an important lesson?
- Does this passage contain rich characters? Is there dialogue for the characters?
- Does this passage contain vivid scenes?

If you are in a group setting, have the students share their working theme.

Session 3: Navigate the Narrative

The narrative section(s) in Biblical Presentation are words (up to 350) that the speaker incorporates into the speech in addition to Scripture.

An introduction is required. At a minimum, you must state the scripture reference before you recite the passage. If you have 2 passages, you may also have a longer narrative section between the passages. If you have a narrative section as a conclusion, they must be before the final words of the speech.

Be sure to carefully review the Biblical Presentation rules pertaining to the narrative sections.

You can make the narrative sections like short platform speeches that inform or persuade the audience in a direct way, including setting up the speech, summarizing the theme, and explaining the message. On the other hand, you can make your narrative sections more like an Interpretation speech, creating a character and a story for these short sections.

Either way, consider these purposes of narrative sections:

- Provide necessary context. Most likely you are only presenting a portion of a larger work, so your narrative sections can explain the setting, characters, or plot that has already taken place.
- Make valuable connections. Your narrative sections can help your audience see how your selections create a unified speech.
- Highlight your theme. Your narrative sections can ensure that your theme takes up permanent residence in the minds of your audience.
- Leave an impression. Your conclusion can help synthesize all the parts, amplify your theme and your message.

Activity

Time to consider your narration sections!

- Will you have an introduction, one between the passages, and a conclusion? Or an introduction and a conclusion? Or just an introduction?
- What is your message? What do you want your audience to think, feel, do after watching your speech? What do you need to say in addition to the Scripture to guide them there?
- Do you want to develop a Platform- or Interpretation-style narrative sections?

Take 3 minutes to jot down your ideas and answers to these questions.

If you are in a group setting, have the students share the type of narrative sections they think will fit best with their theme and Scripture passages.

Session 4: Enhance Your Delivery

Like with other Interpretation speeches, you will need to consider the characterization and blocking for each Scripture selection (and narrative section if you choose to develop a character and storyline).

Biblical Presentation is different from other speech events because you get to use visual aids. There are two goals:

- Enhance your speech with your chosen visual aid(s).
- Incorporate creative and deliberate movements with the use of your visual aid(s).

Let's review the rules.

- One or more visual aid(s) of the competitor's choice must be used during the speech.
- The visual aid(s) must be able to fit into a lidded box with overall dimensions (length + width + height) of up to 35 inches. The box is not required to be in the competition room but must be present at the tournament.
- The visual aid(s) may not be live animals, weapons (real or perceived as dangerous), electronics or battery-operated items, hazardous materials (including open flames), or substances that could be spilled and/or left behind on the floor (e.g., poured liquids, glitter, sand, etc.). Safety first, everyone!
- Until the timer starts the speech, all visual aids must be either in the box held in hands, in the box on the floor visible to the judges, OR held in hands visible to the judges.

Activity

Play a game of Props. Pass everyday objects (pencil, backpack, umbrella, phone, book, piece of paper) around a circle. Each person must improvise a short scene using the prop as something besides what it actually is.

Now let's consider visual aid(s) for your Biblical Presentation. Ask yourself a few questions.

- What visual aids are suggested by my selections?
- Will this visual aid enhance my speech?
- Is this visual aid versatile? Can I use it as multiple objects?

Now consider the theme, Bible passages, narrative sections that you identified in previous sessions. Let's take 3 minutes to brainstorm 3 potential visual aids that would help your audience visualize your theme.