

# Giving Talks **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Youth Ministry Starter Pack



# Using This Guide & Partnering with BYM

## How to use this document

How to use this document: This resource is designed for you to use in three ways – together as a team, on your own, and as a launchpad into further learning. Page 1 gives you a team discussion guide you can use in a leaders' meeting, at a retreat, or across a couple of shorter check-ins. Page 2 is for personal reflection, helping each leader sit with God and pay attention to their own life and leadership. Page 3 offers articles, books, and tools you can explore over time. Don't feel pressure to use everything at once pick one or two sections that fit your current season and start there.

## How BYM can support and train you

Baptist Youth Ministries exists to help churches across NSW & ACT build healthy youth and young adult ministry, not just run events. If you'd like help working through this module with your team, a BYM team member can come and facilitate a training session, leaders' retreat segment, or tailored workshop in your context, or join you online. We can also walk with you through a Healthy Youth Ministry Assessment and follow up coaching to identify strengths, gaps, and next steps. To explore training or support, get in touch with the BYM team or visit the Website to connect with our team, check out events and explore more resources

# Giving Talks

## Team Reflection

This session looks at giving talks in youth and young adults ministry: opening the Bible, preparing clearly, and speaking in a way that helps young people genuinely engage with God's word. It acknowledges that preaching can feel intimidating, especially when we compare ourselves with confident communicators, but reminds us that God works through our voice, our story, and our faithful preparation. Together, we'll reflect on some key principles and practical habits that can help our whole team grow in teaching.

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### **The heart of preaching**

- The video acknowledges that many leaders feel nervous or carry a sense of “weight” about teaching young people. Where do you notice that nervousness or weight in yourself?
- How do you tend to respond to that feeling: by avoiding speaking, over-preparing, winging it, or something else?

### **Practice questions (if time):**

- When you think about giving a talk, what do you believe “success” looks like (e.g. laughs, silence, tears, good feedback, clear gospel, faithful explanation of the passage)?
- How might your definition of success need to shift if preaching is primarily about being faithful to God's word and trusting him with the results?

### **Finding your own voice (not someone else's)**

- The video says you don't have to be that other confident preacher on the stage; God will work through your voice and style. Where are you most tempted to compare yourself with other speakers?
- Think of a talk that impacted you deeply. What do you think God used in that talk (content, honesty, stories, clarity, passion)? How does that shape how you want to speak?

### **Team voice questions:**

- As a team, do we unintentionally send the message that only certain personalities can preach (funny, extroverted, big stage presence)?
- How can we make room for different voices and styles (more reflective, more storytelling, more Bible-study style) while still holding a strong commitment to teaching the Bible clearly?

### **Keeping talks clear and simple**

- The video reminds us that we're not writing a theology paper and that young people in the room might be at very different stages of faith. Where have you seen talks become too complex, too academic, or too full of jargon?
- When you think about your last talk (or one you heard recently), was there one clear main idea that a young person could repeat afterwards?

### **Clarity questions:**

- What are some common “churchy” words we use (grace, sin, salvation, righteousness, repentance, etc.) that might need clearer explanation for many young people?
- As a team, could we agree on a simple practice like: “Every talk has one sentence big idea and no more than three key moves or points”?

### **Preparation, practice, and feedback**

- The video encourages leaders not to leave preparation to the last minute and to practise out loud. What does your usual preparation pattern look like (be honest)?
- Have you ever noticed a difference between a talk you've practised out loud and one you haven't?

### **Team process questions:**

- Do we have any shared expectations as a team for how far in advance talks are planned, how we prepare, and how we rehearse? If not, what might be helpful?
- How could we build a simple feedback culture around talks (e.g. one trusted leader giving feedback, peer review, short debrief questions after each talk)? or practicing talks and providing constructive, encouraging feedback to one another?
- The video highlights being available after a talk and making space for questions and follow up. In our current pattern, what usually happens after the talk finishes?
- Do young people know they're allowed to ask questions, wrestle, and disagree, or does the talk feel like the “final word” for the night?

# Giving Talks

## Personal Reflection

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### **My heart and motives**

- When I think about giving a talk, what do I feel first: excitement, fear, pressure, indifference, something else? Why?
- Where do I feel the strongest temptation to compare myself with others (content, humour, presence, Bible knowledge, story telling)?

### **My engagement with God's word**

- How much time do I usually spend sitting with the passage itself (reading, praying, reflecting) before I start writing my talk?
- Do I genuinely understand the main idea of the passage, or am I mostly collecting quotes and illustrations?

### **Clarity and connection**

- If someone asked one of your regular listeners, "What are their talks usually like?" how do you think they would answer?
- Are my talks usually too long, too short, or about right? What feedback (direct or indirect) have I noticed?

### **Preparation, practice, and feedback**

- Think about your last few talks. Which of these did you actually do?
  1. Prayed specifically for the talk and the listeners
  2. Wrote a clear big idea sentence
  3. Practised out loud at least once
  4. Asked for feedback afterwards
- Which of these habits feels hardest or most awkward for you? Why?

### **Identity, grace, and growth**

- When a talk goes really well (or really badly), what happens inside you: does your sense of worth rise and fall with the "result"?
- What would it look like to remember that God's love for you does not depend on how well a talk lands?

# Giving Talks

## Additional Resources

These resources are here to help you grow in confidence and faithfulness as you communicate God’s word to young people. They offer practical help with preparing talks, understanding your audience, shaping clear messages, and preaching in ways that are biblically grounded, engaging, and accessible for the young people you serve

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### Articles

- “How to Teach the Bible Clearly to Young People” : A simple article on explaining passages and the gospel in plain language.
- “Preaching to Teenagers: Ten Tips” : Practical coaching on connecting with teen listeners.
- “Structuring a Talk for Clarity” : An article on crafting a big idea and simple outline.
- “Building a Feedback Culture Around Teaching” Ideas for normalising feedback in teams.

### Find more resources online

Scan this QR code to see the full, regularly updated list of articles, videos, and books on preaching and giving talks from the BYM Resource

### Support from BYM

BYM can help churches build healthier teaching cultures for youth and young adults, not just fill rosters for preaching slots. Through training, coaching, and shared resources, BYM can support teams in planning teaching, growing new communicators, and keeping God’s word central in youth ministry.



**LEARN MORE**  
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