

# Homiletics to Devotional Talk

**Step 1** — Prayerfully prepare all five steps of homiletics for the passage.

**Step 2** — Prayerfully consider your audience and prepare a brief introduction for the talk. Ask yourself the following questions to stimulate ideas:

- What are the characteristics of my audience? (e.g. age, life stage, interests, common struggles, etc.)
- How does this passage relate to their present situation?
- What questions could I ask them to stimulate interest in the relevance of this passage? (e.g. “Have you ever been in a situation like...” or “What reaction do you have when...” etc.)
- Is there a short story or illustration from daily life to lead into the passage that the audience could identify with?
- Give your homiletics division sentence (or subject sentence if teaching more than one division) as a transition from the introduction into the passage.

**Step 3** — Read aloud the verses contained in the first division.

**Step 4** — Teach through the content of the first division of your homiletics.

- Use a conversational style as if you are telling a story.
- Point out important facts that are repeated or emphasized.
- Explain words or concepts that are not familiar to today’s audience.

**Step 5** — Give the homiletics aim as the main truth for the division. Cue the audience that this is important to remember by using phrases such as:

- “The lesson we see in this passage is...”
- “The main truth God reveals here is...”
- “This passage reminds us...”

**Step 6** — Give your homiletics application question(s) for that division.

**Step 7** — Repeat steps three through six if you have included other divisions.

**Note:** Re-phrase the aim to reinforce the main truth but without repeating the exact words.

**Step 8** — Conclude your talk and close in prayer.

Options for an effective conclusion include:

- Repeat the subject sentence and aim.
- Close with the final application question.
- Briefly remind them of the introduction and reinforce the way the homiletics aim relates to their lives.

## Sample Devotional Talk

Matthew 4:18-21 (Division 3 of Matthew 4:1-25)

### Step 1: Complete homiletics before preparing talk.

### Step 2:

Have you ever been surprised by a completely unexpected event in life? Perhaps you were presented a new job opportunity that you did not even apply for. Or your husband or boss announced to you that the company had transferred you to a different city. Maybe you attended a meeting you were not looking forward to and experienced an instant connection with a person who has since become a trusted friend. We can all relate to unexpected events like that. In Matthew 4:18-21, we find a similar situation as Jesus calls the first disciples to follow him (division sentence).

### Steps 3 and 4:

I will read those verses to you (*read Matthew 4:18-21*). Fishing was a common occupation in that day for those living near the Sea of Galilee. Peter and Andrew were busy doing the work they had done week in and week out for years. They likely expected to continue to be fisherman for their entire lives. Then Jesus calls to them: “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” When we compare this passage to John 1 we realize that this is not the first time Peter and Andrew have met Jesus. From the beginning it seems Andrew thought Jesus might be the promised Messiah. Yet, this is certainly an unexpected event! A complete change of career and a new priority in life faces them. How did they respond? At once, they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus was not yet finished. He saw two more brothers who also made their living as fishermen. Fishing was clearly the family business as Zebedee, the father, is also in the boat with them. Again, Jesus calls James and John. They immediately leave the boat and their father and follow Jesus.

Are you surprised by their immediate response? How could they make an instant decision that would completely change not only their career but their entire lives? The only answer to that is they trusted in Jesus who called them.

### Step 5:

The response of Peter and Andrew and James and John reminds us of a key truth: We can follow Jesus anywhere because He is completely trustworthy (aim).

### Step 6:

Are you facing an unexpected event in life (application)? Perhaps like Peter you have been going through the usual routine but now Jesus is calling you to something new. This may cause you to feel fearful or even to doubt if you are able.

### Step 7: Add here if needed.

### Step 8:

Yet we know Jesus is completely trustworthy. How will you respond to this truth as you face the unexpected (application)? Please pray with me as we close.