

Worship development

4.Presentation

Starter: *[In pairs]* Talk about a public speaker who you really enjoyed listening to.

Reading: Mark 8:27-30

Read aloud, then allow time for everyone to re-read it for themselves along with the comment and the personal focus questions – and reflect alone.

Comment: In this passage Jesus seeks feedback on how effective he has been in getting his message across. The Gospels give us the impression of a powerful public speaker. How effective are you? What gets in the way of your message?

“What you are doing speaks so loud I can't hear what you say”. [Emerson]

When speaking in public, you have four main channels of communication: visual, voice quality, touch and the actual words you say. There is classic research by Professor Albert Mehrabian of UCLA, which makes it clear that the impact and perceived truth of any communication comes mostly from the body language of the presenter, closely followed by the voice quality. The actual words come a poor third. His figures for the impact and perceived sincerity of a communication are 55 per cent body language, 38 per cent voice quality and 7 per cent words.

When these three aspects reinforce each other, the communication is congruent. If there is a discrepancy between the words and the body language, it is the non-verbal part that the listener will pay attention to, often without realizing it. Presentation skills are how you give life to your words. So they are much more important than memorising the words.

[Training with NLP Connor and Seymour. HarperCollins]

Personal Focus Questions:

1. What thoughts come to mind as you read this Bible passage and comment? What might God be saying to you?
2. When did you last seek quality feedback on one of your services? What did you change as a result of it?

3. What benefits could you get from some more quality feedback?
4. What steps could you take to liberate yourself to more effectively engage with congregations and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you? E.g get away from a script, improve eye contact and your voice quality.
5. Prepare a 2 minute talk on your last holiday or a hobby.

Share together in threes the results of your individual reflection.

When you have finished your discussions, return together as a group and share any insights.

Now share together in these applications.

Applications:

1. Arrange for each person to give their 2-minute talk and give them feedback on their eye contact, gestures, use of voice etc.
2. What plans shall we make to provide quality feedback on a regular basis on our presentation skills?
3. What training do we need to organize to enable us to give and receive high quality effective feedback?

Review *(Individual thought)*

As an individual how will you use the ideas you have heard in this session?

Follow up. If you would like to develop these ideas further then you could organize a workshop with Peter Ede [01472 883625]

Worship

End with a time of worship that focuses on who Jesus is.