

Contagious Christian Communication: Ten Top Lessons

Whether we are sharing a Bible verse with a friend, preaching a sermon to a church, or teaching the Bible in a classroom, no Christian wants to be a dull and ineffective communicator! In this workshop we will ponder ten top lessons for growing into a more contagious Christian communicator of God’s Word.

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I. To be infectious, you must have the “disease”

II. To enthuse others, be enthused about the Bible

III. Grow in sensitivity to the genre and form of biblical material, don’t just scan for theological or applicational proof texts

IV. Know what lies underneath the assertions of your material

V. Life is lived in story, so get better at engaging both the biblical story and your listener's story

VI. Love your listeners: pray for them, know them, communicate effectively, etc.

VII. Authenticity in communication takes effort, but it is so worth it – eye contact, natural manner, thawed delivery.

VIII. Listeners are no longer wowed by canned content – beware of relying on PowerPoint, on notes, etc.

IX. Know your job: it is not to pressure conformity, it is to present Christ

X. Don't speak from a thimble, know Christ.

Suggested Readings:

Andy Stanley & Lane Jones, *Communicating for a Change* (Multnomah, 2006)

Bert Decker and Hershael York, *Preaching with Bold Assurance* (B&H, 2003) (also *Speaking with Bold Assurance*, same authors)

Bert Decker, *You've Got to Be Believed to Be Heard* (St Martin's, 1993)

Mike Reeves, *The Good God / Delighting in the Trinity* (Paternoster/IVP USA, 2012)

Peter Mead, *Foundations* (Christian Focus, 2015)