Speak Jesus
WORKBOOK



Public Speaking
AGES
13-18

Speak Jesus Workbook: Ages 13-18

This workbook is a part of the ***Empowering Kids Faith through Public Speaking*** initiative. It was created as an educational product to help children improve their public speaking skills and share their faith with others.

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Second Edition

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Author and Design by Lisa Plasencia, MA COMM

For additional copies email ChildMinDirector@cccsda.org

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Welcome to the Speak Jesus Workbook!

Hey there, we're so excited that you're here and ready to prepare for your public speaking adventure! This workbook is made just for you to help you get ready to share an awesome speech or story about Jeus. But here's the thing—you don't have to do everything in this book! Let's talk about how you can use it to get ready in your own way.

What's This Workbook For?

The goal of this workbook is to help you prepare and come to camp with an outline for your speech. It's full of ideas, tips, and examples to get you started, but you get to decide what works best for you. Think of it like a toolbox—you don't need to use every tool, just the ones that help you build the best speech possible!

Choose Your Speaking Category!

Before you start, think about which category you'd like to speak in. Each one is different and special in its own way!

Here are the four categories you can choose from:

1. **Recitation:** Do you love poems or Bible verses? In Recitation, you can pick a poem or verse that means something to you, memorize it, and perform it in a way that helps people understand and feel its message.
2. **Storytelling:** Are you a great storyteller? In Storytelling, you'll create a story that teaches a lesson or shares an important message about "The Gift of Salvation." You can use your voice and expressions to make your story come alive!
3. **Artistic Expression:** Do you like creating art? In Artistic Expression, you'll make a piece of art—like a drawing, painting, or sculpture—that shows a message about "The Gift of Salvation." You'll get to explain your art and what it means to you!
4. **Persuasion and Sermonettes:** Do you like to speak and inspire others? In this category, you'll give a speech or short sermon that encourages others to think about "The Gift of Salvation" and maybe even take action.

How to Use This Workbook

1. Pick Your Category: First, choose which category you want to speak in: Recitation, Storytelling, Artistic Expression, or Persuasion and Sermonettes.
2. Go to Your Section: Find the section for your chosen category in the workbook. You'll see tips, activities, and examples that can help you get started.
3. Choose What Helps You Most: You don't have to do everything! Look through the activities and pick the ones that interest you or that you think will help you the most. Maybe you want to practice a story you already have in mind, or you need some ideas for how to start your speech—use what you need!
4. Prepare Your Outline: Use the tips and exercises to help you create an outline for your speech or presentation. An outline is like a map that shows the beginning, middle, and end of what you want to say. Bring this outline with you to camp so you're ready to go!

Have Fun and Be Creative!

This is your chance to be creative, share what's important to you, and maybe even inspire others. We're here to help you, but the most important thing is that you have fun and feel proud of what you create. We can't wait to hear what you have to share.



Introduction to Recitation

Recitation is an art form where we perform a poem, Bible verse, or any short piece of text out loud, ***conveying*** its meaning with emotion and clarity. It's a powerful way to share messages, feelings, and stories that ***resonate*** with the heart. Recitation can be done with an original poem you write or by selecting a piece that inspires you, such as a favorite Bible verse or a well-loved Christian poem.

In this category, you will learn how to:

- Understand the meaning and emotion behind the words.
- Use your voice, rhythm, and pauses to bring the words to life.
- Connect with your audience by expressing what the poem or scripture means to you.

Key words

Conveying: Sharing or showing an idea or feeling clearly so that others can understand it.

Resonate: When something feels true, important, or special to you, like when a song or story really connects with your heart.

Salvation: Being saved by God's love and forgiveness, through believing in Jesus, what He has done for us, and asking God to take our sins away.

Theme Connection: *The Gift of Salvation*

Our speaking theme, "The Gift of Salvation," invites you to think deeply about what ***salvation*** means to you and how it can be shared through recitation. Salvation is a powerful concept found throughout the Bible, and many verses and poems capture its significance, such as Psalms 62:1, "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him."

When choosing or writing a piece for recitation, consider these questions:

- How does this piece reflect the idea of salvation?
- What emotions or imagery does it use to convey this theme?
- How can your delivery make the message more meaningful to your audience?

Think of recitation as a way to become a storyteller who uses voice and expression to paint a picture of God's love and salvation. Whether you're writing a poem or selecting a verse, your goal is to move the audience and help them feel the beauty and power of "The Gift of Salvation."

Activities and Exercises Recitation

These exercises will focus on advanced techniques and encourage deeper thinking about the meaning and delivery of your recitations.

1. **Analyze and Discuss**
   - Choose a complex poem or Bible verse and analyze it with a partner or small group.
   - Discuss what the poem means, what emotions it evokes, and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation."
   - **Objective:** To practice diving deeper into the content and think critically about your recitation piece.

2. **Voice Modulation Practice**
   - Take a single verse or line and practice saying it in different ways: loudly, softly, quickly, slowly, with a whisper, and with a shout.
   - Discuss with a partner how each style changes the meaning or feeling of the line.
   - **Objective:** To understand the importance of voice modulation in enhancing the emotional impact of a recitation.

3. **Emphasis and Pause Drill**
   - Pick a verse or poem and mark where you want to add emphasis or pause. Practice reciting it with these changes.
   - Record yourself and listen back, or have a friend give feedback. Did the emphasis make the important parts stand out? Did the pauses give time for the audience to think?
   - **Objective:** To learn the power of emphasis and pause in speech delivery.

4. **Recitation Workshop**
   - Have a workshop session where friends or family perform a piece and get constructive feedback.
   - Focus on three key areas: *clarity*, *emotion*, and *connection* to the theme. Each participant will receive feedback on these three areas.
   - **Objective:** To provide a focused and structured practice environment where you can grow and improve.

Reflection on Recitation

Before starting this section pick which poem or verses you will recite. Once you have your piece picked the following reflection prompts and preparation activities will help you think about your recitation piece more deeply and prepare you to present confidently.

1. **Reflection Prompts:**
   - **Why Did You Choose This Piece, and What is Its Deeper Meaning?:** Reflect on why you selected this specific poem or scripture. What message does it convey about "The Gift of Salvation"? Write a paragraph analyzing its deeper meaning.



   - **How Do You Connect Personally with This Piece?:** Consider your personal experiences and beliefs.
     - How does this piece resonate with you?

     - How does it reflect your understanding of salvation?

   - **What Emotions and Thoughts Do You Want to Evoke in Your Audience?:** Think strategically about how you want your audience to feel and what you want them to think after hearing your recitation. Write a few lines about your intended impact.

Preparation for Recitation

Preparation Activities:

- Recitation Journal: Keep a small journal where you write down thoughts about your recitation practice sessions. Note what went well and what you'd like to improve next time.

- **Voice and Breathing Warm-Ups:** Start each practice session with a few minutes of voice and breathing exercises to help warm up your voice and calm any nerves.

- **Layered Practice Sessions:** Break your recitation into sections and practice each one separately before putting them all together. Focus on one element at a time—like tone, pace, or emphasis—to refine your performance.

- **Mindful Visualization:** Before each practice, take a few moments to close your eyes and visualize yourself delivering your recitation confidently in front of an audience. Imagine their positive reactions and use that visualization to boost your confidence.

CHECKLIST



- [ ] **Are you prepared to explain the deeper meaning of your piece and how it relates to "The Gift of Salvation"?**

- [ ] **Have you practiced your delivery enough to feel comfortable with tone, pacing, and emphasis?**

- [ ] **Is the length of your recitation and reflection between 5-8 minutes, covering multiple verses or stanzas if needed?**

Speech Outline Guidance for Recitation

This outline is help you perpare your own outline by encouraging deeper thinking and helping to refine your delivery techniques.

- **Introduction: Setting the Stage**
  - Begin by introducing the poem or Bible verse and giving a brief explanation of why you selected it.
  - Provide context that connects the piece to the theme, such as explaining the part of the Bible it comes from or the inspiration behind a poem you wrote.
- **Body: Analyzing and Performing the Piece**
  - Break down the poem or verse into key parts. Talk about what each part means and how it reflects the theme of salvation.
  - Perform the recitation, paying attention to rhythm, tone, and emphasis. Think about which words need to be louder, softer, slower, or faster to create the desired effect.
- **Conclusion: Reflecting on the Message**
  - Conclude by sharing your personal reflection on the piece. How does it resonate with you? Why is it meaningful to you?
  - Tie it back to "The Gift of Salvation" and explain how the message of your recitation can inspire or encourage others.

TIPS

- Think about your audience—what do you want them to feel or think about after hearing your recitation?
- Use body language and eye contact to connect more deeply with your listeners.
- Practice emphasizing key phrases and using strategic pauses to enhance the delivery.

Recitation: Sample Outlines

Sample Outline

Your recitation should be between 5-8 minutes, so choose a longer passage or combine multiple verses, and be prepared to reflect deeply on each part. Here's a more structured outline to guide you in delivering a compelling recitation:

1. I**ntroduction: Setting the Stage**
    - "Good afternoon, my name is [Your Name], and today I will be reciting a collection of passages that I believe truly captures 'The Gift of Salvation.' I chose these passages because they show both the promise of God's salvation and the love He has for us."
2. **Body: Analyzing and Performing the Piece**
    - **Part 1: Why I Chose This Piece**
    - Start by explaining why you chose these particular verses or passages. What spoke to you about them? How do they relate to your personal experience or understanding of salvation?
        - **Example:** "I chose Psalm 27:1 and John 3:16 because, together, they highlight both the strength we find in God and His deep love for us. Psalm 27 gives us confidence to face our fears, while John 3:16 reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice of love."
    - **Part 2: Recitation of Poem or Verses**
    - Perform the selected passages. Make sure to introduce them properly. For instance, begin with a Psalm that speaks of God's protection and follow with a New Testament verse that reinforces the theme of salvation.
        - **Example:** Psalm 27:1-5: Start with "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?" (Pause and emphasize "light" and "salvation" to show their importance.)

Sample Outline: Continued

- Continue with verses 2-5, reading slowly and using different tones to highlight the meaning. "The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"
- **Transition to a New Testament Passage:**
- “Now, I’ll share from the New Testament, which complements this message of salvation.” **(you only need a transition here if you combine different verses or poems)**
  - **Example:** John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." (Pause after "loved the world" to emphasize God’s immense love for humanity.)
- **Part 3: What It Means and How It Fits into the Theme**
- After the recitation, reflect on the deeper meaning of the combined passages and how they connect to "The Gift of Salvation."
  - **Example:** "Psalm 27 reminds us that with God, we have nothing to fear, as He is our protector. Meanwhile, John 3:16 reveals the depth of His love, offering us the gift of salvation through His Son. Together, these passages show how salvation is both a promise of safety and a profound expression of love."
    - Parts 1-3 should cover 4-9 minutes, providing depth and a variety of perspectives on the theme.

3. Conclusion: Reflecting on the Message

"These passages mean a lot to me because they offer both comfort and a call to action. They encourage us to trust in God’s promises and to embrace His love and salvation fully. I hope these words encourage you to feel that same trust and love today."

Introduction to Storytelling

Storytelling is a way to share a message or lesson by telling a story that has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Stories can make people feel happy, sad, excited, or even inspired. When you tell a story, you're not just saying words—you're painting pictures in the minds of your listeners and taking them on a journey.

Why Storytelling is Powerful:

- People Remember Stories: A good story sticks in people's minds. They might forget facts or details, but they'll remember how your story made them feel.
- Stories Teach Lessons: Jesus used stories called parables to teach people important lessons about God and how to live.
- You Can Be Creative: You can make your story funny, serious, or adventurous—whatever you think will best share the message you want to tell.

Theme Connection:
"The Gift of Salvation"

Our theme, "The Gift of Salvation," is a message about how God saves us and shows us His love. When you create your story, think about how this theme can be part of your storytelling. Here are some ways to connect your story to "The Gift of Salvation":

- Think About a Lesson: What lesson about salvation do you want your story to teach? Maybe it's about forgiveness, love, or how God helps us when we are lost.
- Create Characters with a Purpose: Make your characters go through something that shows the audience what salvation means. For example, a lost sheep that finds its way back to the shepherd or a friend who forgives another friend.
- End with a Message: Just like Jesus' parables, your story should end with a clear message. What do you want your listeners to learn about God's gift of salvation from your story?

Think of storytelling as being a guide. You're leading your audience through a world that you create. Your job is to make them see, hear, and feel everything that happens in your story. And when your story ends, they should feel like they've learned something important about "The Gift of Salvation."

When you're planning your story, ask yourself:

- What lesson or message about salvation do I want to share?
- Who will be the characters in my story, and what will happen to them?
- How can I make my story exciting and meaningful from start to finish?

Activities and Exercises for Storytelling

These activities will help you build your storytelling skills and prepare a meaningful story that connects to "The Gift of Salvation." Get ready to be creative, think deeply, and have fun!

1. **Plot Twist Brainstorming**
   - Think of a story where the ending surprises the audience but still teaches a lesson about salvation. Write down three different possible endings for your story, each with a different twist.
   - **Objective:** Explore how unexpected events can make a story more engaging and drive home the theme.
2. **Dialogue Deep Dive**
   - Write a conversation between two characters in your story where they discuss what "The Gift of Salvation" means to them. Think about how each character's personality affects the way they talk.
   - **Objective:** Learn how to use dialogue to reveal character traits and deliver important messages in your story.
3. **Story Feedback Circle**
   - Share your story idea or a part of your story with a friend or family member. Ask them what they liked and if they have any suggestions. Listen carefully and think about how you can make your story even better.
   - **Objective:** Understand the importance of feedback in shaping and refining a story.
4. **Story Structure Breakdown**
   - Break your story into three parts: Beginning, Middle, and End. Write a few sentences for each part:
     - Beginning: How does your story start? What is the setting? Who are the characters?
     - Middle: What is the main conflict or problem? What challenges do the characters face?
     - End: How does the story resolve? What lesson about "The Gift of Salvation" is learned?
   - **Objective:** Understand the structure of a well-told story and how each part connects to the theme.

Reflection on Storytelling

Reflecting on your story and preparing carefully can help you make it even better! Use these questions and activities to think about your story's message and how you can deliver it in the best way possible.



Reflection Prompts:

1. **What is the Main Message of Your Story?**
   - Write down in one or two sentences the lesson or message you want your audience to learn from your story. How does it connect to "The Gift of Salvation"?

2. **How Do Your Characters Grow?**
   - Think about your main character. How do they change from the beginning to the end of the story?

   - What do they learn about salvation, and how does that affect their actions or feelings?

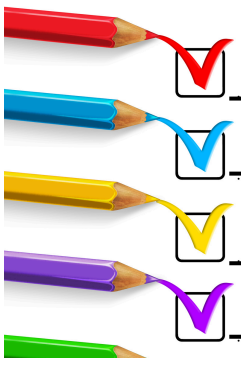
3. **What Emotions Do You Want to Create?**
   - Consider the emotions you want your audience to feel at different parts of your story (e.g., excitement, sadness, hope). Write down where these emotions should be felt and how you can use your storytelling to create them.

4. **Does Your Ending Have a Strong Impact?**
   - Reflect on the ending of your story. Does it leave the audience thinking? Does it clearly tie back to your story's message about salvation? If so, explain how in a couple of sentences. If not, how can you make it stronger?

Preparation for Storytelling

Preparation Activities:

1. **One-Minute Story Pitch**
   - Practice explaining your story in one minute to a friend or family member. Focus on the main points: the beginning, the main problem, the lesson, and the ending. Ask for feedback on how clear and engaging your pitch is.
   - **Objective:** Sharpen your ability to summarize your story clearly and focus on its most important elements.
2. **Emotion Walk**
   - Walk around a room and practice telling your story as if you are each character. Change your voice and movements to match how each character would feel and act. For example, walk with heavy steps if a character is sad or skip lightly if they are happy.
   - **Objective:** Embody your characters and understand how their emotions affect their actions and storytelling.
3. **Create a Soundtrack**
   - Choose three or four songs or sounds that match different parts of your story. Think about the mood you want to create in each part (e.g., calm, tense, joyful). Share your choices with someone and explain why you chose them.
   - **Objective:** Think creatively about how sound and mood work together in storytelling.
4. **Mind Map for Detail Development**
   - Create a mind map with the main idea of your story in the center. Around it, add branches for each of these: Setting, Characters, Main Problem, Resolution, and Message. Under each branch, write down more specific details.
   - **Objective:** Ensure your story is rich with details and well-developed in every area.
5. **Focus on the First Line**
   - The first line of a story is crucial for grabbing attention. Rewrite the first line of your story three different ways. Which one is the most exciting or intriguing? Why?
   - **Objective:** Learn how to make your story's beginning as strong and engaging as possible.



Final Checklist Before Camp:

- ☐ **Have you practiced your story enough times to feel confident?**
- ☐ **Is your story between 5-8 minutes?**
- ☐ **Do you know your story's main message and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation"?**
- ☐ **Are you ready to use your voice, face, and body to bring your story to life for your audience?**

Speech Outline Guidance for Storytelling

Outlining your story is like creating a map that shows where your story starts, what happens in the middle, and how it ends. A good outline helps you make sure your story is exciting, clear, and meaningful.

Use this simple outline guide to organize your story. Remember, a good story has three main parts: the Beginning, the Middle, and the End.

1. B**eginning: Set the Scene**
    - Introduce the Setting and Characters: Who are the main characters? Where and when does the story take place? Set up the story by describing the main character and the world they live in.
    - Introduce the Conflict or Problem: What challenge or problem does the character face that will help them learn about "The Gift of Salvation"?
    - **Example:** "In a small, bustling town, there was a young girl named Maria who felt her life was missing something. She wanted to understand why people talked about God’s love but didn’t always show it."

2. **Middle: Building the Story**
    - The Journey Begins: What happens as your character starts to face their problem? Describe the steps they take to solve it, the people they meet, and the things they learn along the way.
    - Obstacles and Challenges: What difficulties or challenges do they face that make them grow? How do these challenges connect to the theme of salvation?
    - **Example:** "Maria decided to visit different places in her town—a church, a market, and a quiet park—where she spoke to different people about what God’s love meant to them. She faced moments of doubt and confusion, but she kept searching."

Speech Outline: Continued

3. Climax: The Turning Point

- The Big Moment: What is the most exciting or emotional part of your story? This is where your character learns something important about "The Gift of Salvation."
- **Example:** "One day, Maria met a stranger who had lost everything but still spoke of God's love as the greatest gift he had ever received. This moment changed everything for Maria."

4. Falling Action: The Reflection

- How Does the Character React?: After the big moment, how does your character reflect on what they've learned? What do they decide to do next?
- **Example:** "Maria realized that God's love wasn't just words but actions. She decided to start showing God's love to others by helping those in need in her town."

5. Conclusion: The Resolution

- How Does the Story End?: Show how the story wraps up. What has the character learned, and how have they changed?
- What is the Lesson or Message?: End with a clear message that ties back to "The Gift of Salvation."
- **Example:** "Maria's life felt full for the first time. She understood that God's love was a gift meant to be shared, and she dedicated herself to spreading that message."

Sample Outlines and Tips for Storytelling

This sample outline is here to give you an idea of what a story could look like. It is not meant to be copied. Your story should be unique, with your own details, characters, and message. Use this sample as a guide to help you think about how to create your own story. Remember, you have many tools to make your story exciting, like using different voices for each character, changing the speed of your speaking, or adding expressions and body movements. Make it your own!

Sample Outline

Here’s a sample outline to show you how to put together a simple but powerful story. Think of this as a starting point—you will need to add more details, make your characters come to life, and use your own creativity!

1. **Introduction: Setting the Stage**
    - Example: "In a busy city filled with people who seemed to have no time for each other, there was a young artist named Leo. He felt that everyone had forgotten about kindness and love."

2. **Rising Action: Building the Story**
    - Example: "Leo decided to paint a mural on the wall of an old building to remind people of God's love. As he painted, different people came by—some laughed, some ignored him, but a few stopped to watch. Leo kept working, even when it was hard."

3. **Climax: The Turning Point**
    - Example: "One day, a little girl approached Leo and asked what his painting meant. Leo told her about 'The Gift of Salvation'—how God’s love is like a light that shines in dark places. The girl smiled and shared his message with her friends."

Sample Outlines: Continued

4. Falling Action: The Reflection

- Example: "Word about Leo's mural spread. More and more people stopped to look, and they began to help each other more and talk about what the painting meant. Leo realized that his art could touch hearts and change lives."

5. Conclusion: The Resolution

- Example: "Leo's mural became a symbol of hope in the city, reminding everyone of God's love and the importance of sharing it. Leo knew that he was doing what he was meant to do—sharing 'The Gift of Salvation' in his own special way."



Introduction to Artistic Expression

Artistic expression is about using your creativity to share a message or tell a story. This could be through drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, or other types of visual art. The goal is to use your artwork to express a message in a way that words alone might not be able to. Your artistic expression should connect to the theme, "The Gift of Salvation," and help people see and feel that message in a new way.

Why Artistic Expression is Powerful:

- Art Speaks in Different Ways: Art can touch people's hearts, make them think, and help them see things in new ways.
- You Can Be Unique: Your artwork is a reflection of you! You can use your favorite colors, shapes, and styles to create something that only you can make.
- Art Can Teach and Inspire: Just like how stained glass windows tell Bible stories in a church, your artwork can help others understand "The Gift of Salvation" better.

Theme Connection: *"The Gift of Salvation"*

Our theme, "The Gift of Salvation," is about how God saves us and offers us His love. When you create your art, think about how this theme can be shown in a creative way.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Think About Symbols: How can you show salvation through colors, shapes, or symbols? For example, a cross can represent Jesus' sacrifice, a light can symbolize hope, or a heart can show God's love.
- Use a Story or Scene: Create a piece that tells a story from the Bible or your life that shows God's gift of salvation. You could paint, draw, or even make a small sculpture of a scene that means a lot to you.
- Combine Different Art Techniques: Consider combining techniques like painting and collage or drawing and sculpture to create a layered, meaningful piece that conveys the depth of your message.

Think of artistic expression like painting a picture with your feelings and thoughts. You want your audience to not only see your art but to feel what you are trying to share about "The Gift of Salvation."
When planning your art, ask yourself:

- What message about salvation do I want to share through my art?
- What materials and tools can I use to create something unique?
- How can I make my art meaningful and help others understand what I'm trying to say?



Activities and Exercises for Artistic Expression

These activities will help you explore your creativity and think about how you can use different art forms to share a meaningful message about "The Gift of Salvation." Remember, there are no limits to your creativity—let your imagination lead the way!

1. **Symbol Design Challenge**
   - Design your own unique symbol that represents "The Gift of Salvation." Think about combining elements (like a cross and a heart or a light and a path) to make something original. Sketch out your ideas and refine them until you have a strong, clear symbol.
   - **Objective:** Develop skills in symbolism and design by creating an original visual element that conveys a specific message.

2. **Layered Meaning Art**
   - Create a piece of art that has layers—both in technique and in meaning. For example, you could paint a background that represents chaos or darkness and then draw or paint over it with images that represent hope and salvation. Think about how the layers work together to tell a story.
   - **Objective:** Learn how to use different layers and techniques in art to represent different aspects of a theme.

3. **Interactive Art Presentation**
   - Create a piece of art that invites the viewer to interact with it in some way. For example, you could make a drawing or painting that has parts covered, and the audience has to lift flaps or use a magnifying glass to see hidden details that reveal the message of salvation.
   - **Objective:** Think about how to engage an audience and make them a part of the art experience.

4. **Art Critique Circle**
   - Create a piece of art on the theme and present it to a small group (friends or family). Explain what you created, why you chose to create it, and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation." Ask for feedback on what they understood and how the piece made them feel.
   - **Objective:** Practice explaining the meaning behind your art and learning from others' perspectives to improve your artistic communication skills.

Reflection on Artistic Expression

Reflecting on your artwork and preparing to present it can help you make it even more meaningful. Use these questions and activities to think about what you want your art to say and how you can help others understand its message.



Reflection Prompts:

1. **What is the Message of Your Art?**
   - Write down in one or two sentences what your artwork is about. What do you want people to feel or think when they see it? How does it connect to "The Gift of Salvation"?

2. **Why Did You Choose These Materials and Colors?**
   - Think about the materials and colors you used. Why did you choose them? How do they help to share your message about salvation? Write a few sentences explaining your choices.

3. **How Does Your Art Tell a Story?**
   - Look at your artwork and think about what story it tells. What is happening in the scene or with the symbols you used? Write down the story your art is telling and how it helps people understand "The Gift of Salvation."

4. **What Would You Change or Add?**
   - Think about your artwork and ask yourself if there is anything you would change or add to make the message clearer or stronger. Write down one or two ideas for how you could improve your piece.

A Note About Art:
Art is a powerful way to express your thoughts, feelings, and ideas—even when words are hard to find. Sometimes, people might see something in your art that you didn't plan or even expect. That's okay! In fact, that's one of the beautiful things about art—it can speak to people in different ways.

Your art might make someone smile, think, or even start a conversation. So don't worry if someone sees something different than what you meant. That doesn't mean you did it wrong—it means your art is doing something wonderful.
Be proud of what you create. Every brushstroke, color choice, or symbol is part of your story.

Preparation Activities: Continued

1. Art Story Practice

- Practice explaining your artwork to a friend or family member. Start with the basics: what you made, why you made it, and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation." Then, add more details about the colors, symbols, and choices you made. Ask them if your explanation makes sense and if they have any questions.
- **Objective:** Learn to clearly explain the meaning behind your art and prepare for presenting it at camp.

2. Mini Gallery Walk

- Set up your artwork in your home, classroom, or Pathfinder Club and invite people to walk around and see it like in a gallery. Stand by your art and explain it to each person as they come by. Pay attention to their reactions and questions to see if your message is coming through clearly.
- **Objective:** Practice presenting your art to different people and getting comfortable talking about it.

3. Art Critique Session

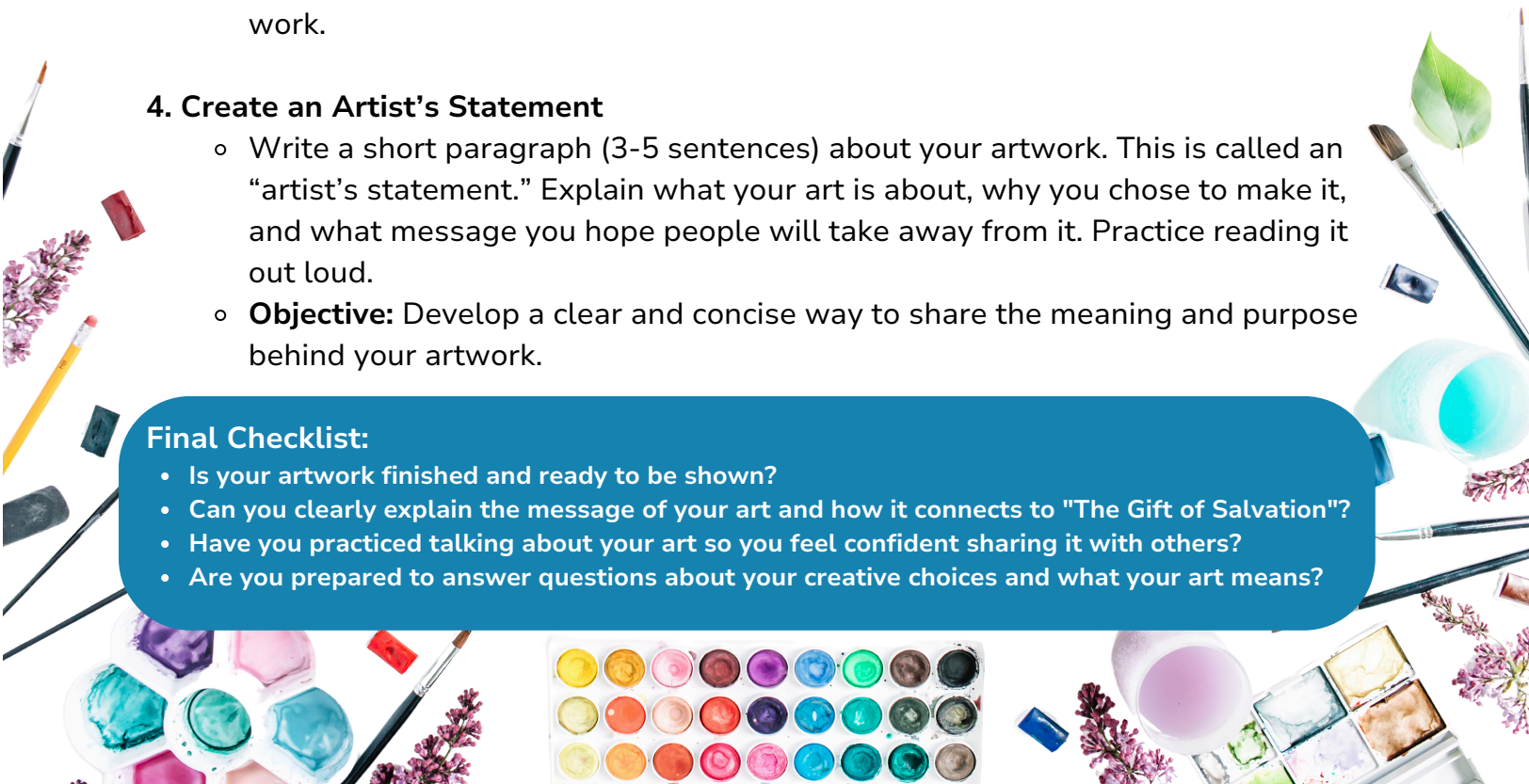
- Gather with a few friends or family members and take turns sharing your artwork. Each person explains their piece and then gets feedback. Listen to what others say and think about how you can use their ideas to make your art even better.
- **Objective:** Learn to accept constructive criticism and use it to improve your work.

4. Create an Artist's Statement

- Write a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) about your artwork. This is called an "artist's statement." Explain what your art is about, why you chose to make it, and what message you hope people will take away from it. Practice reading it out loud.
- **Objective:** Develop a clear and concise way to share the meaning and purpose behind your artwork.

Final Checklist:

- **Is your artwork finished and ready to be shown?**
- **Can you clearly explain the message of your art and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation"?**
- **Have you practiced talking about your art so you feel confident sharing it with others?**
- **Are you prepared to answer questions about your creative choices and what your art means?**



Outline Guidance Artistic Expression

Presenting your artwork is just as important as creating it. When you present your art, you help people understand what you made, why you made it, and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation." Use this outline to prepare your presentation so you can clearly share your message and engage your audience.

Outline for Art Presentation:

1. **Introduction: Title and Inspiration**
   - Begin by introducing yourself and giving the title of your artwork. Briefly explain what inspired you to create it. Was it a Bible verse, a personal experience, or something you learned about salvation?
     - **Example:** "Hello, my name is [Your Name], and my artwork is called 'Branches of Grace.' I was inspired by John 15:5, where Jesus says, 'I am the vine; you are the branches.' I wanted to show how God's love and salvation connect us all."

2. **Body: Creative Process and Choices**
   - Explain the steps you took to create your artwork. Discuss the materials and techniques you used, and why you chose them. Go deeper into how these choices help communicate your message. Mention any challenges you faced and how you overcame them.
     - **Example:** "I used acrylic paint to create a textured background that represents life's struggles. Then, I painted branches growing out, reaching towards a light. I chose acrylic because it dries fast, allowing me to layer and build up the texture to show depth."

3. **Body: Symbolism and Meaning**
   - Talk about the symbols or elements in your artwork and what they represent. How do these elements connect to the theme of "The Gift of Salvation"? Why are these symbols important to the story or message you are telling?
     - **Example:** "The branches reaching towards the light represent people reaching out for God's salvation. The thorns on some branches show the hardships we go through, but the light at the top shows that salvation is always there for us."

4. **Conclusion: Personal Connection and Audience Impact**
   - Conclude by sharing your personal connection to your artwork. Why is this message important to you? What do you hope your audience will feel or understand after seeing your art? Invite the audience to reflect on the theme of salvation as they view your work.
     - **Example:** "This piece means a lot to me because it reminds me of my journey in faith and how I've learned to rely on God's love and salvation. I hope that when people see it, they are reminded that God's grace is always within reach, even in the hardest times."

Sample Outlines and Tips for Artistic Expression

These sample outlines give you an idea of how to present your artwork. Remember, these are just examples to help you think about how to explain your own unique piece. Your presentation should reflect your creative choices, personal story, and the message you want to share about "The Gift of Salvation."

Sample Outline: Here's an example of how you could present your artwork

1. **Introduction: Title and Inspiration**
    a. "Hello, my name is David, and my artwork is called 'The Anchor of Hope.' I was inspired by Hebrews 6:19, which says, 'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.' I wanted to show how God's salvation is like an anchor that keeps us steady in life's storms."
2. **Body: Creative Process and Choices**
    a. "I used a mix of watercolors and ink to create the ocean waves. The watercolors help show movement and chaos, while the dark ink outlines the anchor, showing its strength and stability. I chose these materials because they create a contrast that helps tell the story of hope in difficult times."
3. **Body: Symbolism and Meaning**
    a. "The anchor represents God's salvation, which holds us firm even when everything around us is uncertain. The waves crashing against the anchor show the challenges we face, but the anchor stays strong, just like our faith in God's promises."
4. **Conclusion: Personal Connection and Audience Impact**
    a. "This piece is important to me because it reminds me to stay grounded in God's love and salvation, no matter what challenges come my way. I hope when people see it, they feel encouraged to trust in God's strength and stay hopeful."

Tips:

1. **Explain Your Choices Clearly:** Make sure to explain why you chose certain colors, symbols, and materials. This helps the audience understand the deeper meaning behind your art.
2. **Engage with the Audience:** Make eye contact and use your voice to show passion for your work. This helps people connect with what you're saying.
3. **Be Ready for Questions:** Think about what questions people might have about your artwork. Being prepared will help you answer confidently and clearly.
4. **Show Your Art While You Speak:** Hold up your artwork or point to different parts as you talk about them. This helps people see what you're describing.
5. **Practice Your Presentation:** Practice explaining your artwork to a friend or family member before camp. This will help you feel more comfortable when you present.

Introduction to Persuasion and Sermonettes

Persuasion is about convincing people to think or feel a certain way, while a sermonette is a short message that teaches or inspires others about God and faith. Both types of speaking are powerful tools for sharing important ideas and messages.

Why Persuasion and Sermonettes Are Powerful:

- They Can Change Hearts and Minds: A good persuasive speech or sermonette can inspire people to think differently, feel deeply, or take action.
- They Share Important Messages: By sharing your own experiences and understanding, you can help others see and feel the importance of "The Gift of Salvation."
- They Connect Us to Each Other and to God: Speaking about your faith and beliefs helps build a sense of community and encourages others in their spiritual journey.

Theme Connection: *"The Gift of Salvation"*

The theme, "The Gift of Salvation," is about how God saves us and offers us His love and forgiveness. When you create your persuasive speech or sermonette, think about how this theme can be presented in a way that moves and inspires others. Here are some ways to connect your message to the theme:

- Focus on a Bible Story or Verse: Choose a story or verse from the Bible that speaks to you about salvation. Explain why it's important and how it shows God's love and saving power.
- Share a Personal Experience: Think about a time in your life when you felt God's love or saw His saving grace. How did it change you? Sharing personal stories can help your audience connect to your message.
- Call to Action: End your speech or sermonette by encouraging your audience to think, pray, or take a specific action that helps them understand or share "The Gift of Salvation."

Think of persuasive speaking and sermonettes as ways to share a piece of your heart. You want your audience to not only understand your message but also feel inspired to think, believe, or act differently because of what you've shared.
When planning your speech or sermonette for camp, ask yourself:

- What message about salvation do I want to share?
- How can I use a story, example, or Bible verse to make my point stronger?
- What do I want my audience to feel, think, or do after they hear my message?

Activities and Exercises for Persuasion and Sermonettes

These activities will help you learn how to create a persuasive speech or sermonette that is clear, powerful, and connected to "The Gift of Salvation." Get ready to practice, think deeply, and learn how to inspire others!

Three-Point Argument



- Pick a topic related to "The Gift of Salvation" and write down three reasons why it's important. Practice giving a 3-minute speech that explains each reason clearly and uses a Bible verse or story as support. Focus on making each point connect to the overall theme.
- Objective: Learn to structure a persuasive argument with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Personal Testimony Workshop

- Write a short testimony about a time in your life when you felt God's saving grace. Include what happened, how you felt, and what you learned about salvation. Share it with a partner and get feedback on how to make it clearer or more impactful.
- **Objective:** Develop the skill of sharing personal experiences to make a message more relatable and powerful.

Debate Practice

- Choose a partner and pick a topic related to faith or salvation (e.g., "Why is it important to forgive?"). One person takes the "For" side and the other the "Against" side. Each person gets two minutes to present their side. Then, switch sides and try to argue the other point of view.
- **Objective:** Learn to see different perspectives and practice making clear and persuasive arguments.

The Call to Action Challenge

- Write a short speech that ends with a strong call to action. It could be inviting people to pray, read a specific Bible verse, or do a good deed. Practice giving your speech and focus on making your ending powerful and memorable.
- **Objective:** Learn how to inspire your audience to take action based on your message.

Reflection on Persuasion and Sermonettes

Reflecting on your message and preparing carefully can help make your speech or sermonette even more powerful. Use these questions and activities to think about your message and how you can deliver it in the best way possible. For the reflection portion, you will need a separate piece of paper.

Reflection Prompts:

1. **What is the Main Message of Your Speech?**
   - Write down in one or two sentences the key message you want to share.
   - How does it connect to "The Gift of Salvation"?
   - What do you want your audience to remember after they hear you speak?
2. **Why Does This Message Matter to You?**
   - Think about why you chose this topic. Why is it important to you? How have you experienced God's love or salvation in a way that makes you want to share this message? Write down your thoughts to help you speak from the heart.
3. **What Bible Verse or Story Supports Your Message?**
   - Consider which Bible verse or story best illustrates your message. How does it help explain "The Gift of Salvation"? Write down how you will use this verse or story in your speech to make your point clearer.
4. **What Action Do You Want Your Audience to Take?**
   - Think about what you want your audience to do after hearing your speech or sermonette. Do you want them to pray, reflect, share, or act in some way? Write down a clear call to action that fits your message.

Preparation for Persuasion and Sermonettes

Preparation Activities:

1. **Mirror Practice**
   - Practice giving your speech or sermonette in front of a mirror. Pay attention to your facial expressions, hand gestures, and posture. Do they match the message you are sharing? Make adjustments to make sure your body language supports your words.
   - **Objective:** Build confidence in your delivery and make sure your body language is clear and engaging.
2. **Feedback from a Mentor**
   - Share your speech with a trusted adult or mentor (like a parent, teacher, or pastor). Ask them for feedback on your content, clarity, and delivery. Listen carefully and use their advice to improve your speech.
   - **Objective:** Learn from others who have experience in speaking and refine your message to make it stronger.
3. **Practice with Different Audiences**
   - Practice delivering your speech to different audiences, like a small group of friends, family, or even stuffed animals! Notice how you feel speaking to different groups and adjust your tone and style to match your audience.
   - **Objective:** Gain experience speaking to different types of audiences and learn how to adjust your delivery to keep them engaged.
4. **Record and Review**
   - Record yourself giving your speech or sermonette. Watch it back and take notes on what you did well and what could be improved. Focus on your pace, clarity, and how well you're connecting to the theme.
   - **Objective:** Self-evaluate your performance and make improvements to enhance your message and delivery.



Final Checklist:

- Is your speech or sermonette clear and easy to understand?
- Have you practiced enough to feel confident speaking in front of others?
- Do you know your main message and how it connects to "The Gift of Salvation"?
- Are you ready to deliver a strong call to action that encourages your audience to think or act?

Speech Outline Guidance for Persuasion and Sermonettes

Creating an outline for your speech or sermonette will help you organize your thoughts and ensure your message is clear and powerful. Use this outline to help you build a strong and engaging speech that connects to "The Gift of Salvation."

1. **Introduction: Hook and Purpose**
   - Start with a strong opening to grab attention—a thought-provoking question, a powerful Bible verse, or a short personal story that relates to "The Gift of Salvation."
   - **Example:** "Good afternoon, my name is [Your Name], and I want to share with you how God's gift of salvation is like an anchor that keeps us steady in life's storms. Let me tell you a story from my own life..."
2. **Body: Develop Your Message with Key Points**
   - **Point 1:** What is Salvation?: Define salvation in a way that is clear and relatable. Use a Bible verse or story to support your definition.
   - **Example:** "Salvation means being saved by God's love and grace. In John 3:16, we read, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...' This shows us the depth of God's love and the gift of salvation."
   - **Point 2:** Personal Testimony or Example: Share a personal story or example that illustrates the importance of salvation. How has it impacted your life or the life of someone you know?
   - **Example:** "When I was struggling with fear, I remembered the verse from Psalm 27:1, 'The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?' It gave me strength and reminded me that God is always there to save me."
   - **Point 3:** Call to Action: Encourage your audience to reflect on their own lives. What can they do to embrace "The Gift of Salvation" more fully? Suggest a practical action, like praying, reading a Bible passage, or sharing God's love with someone who needs it.
   - **Example:** "I challenge each of you to take a moment this week to think about what salvation means to you and how you can share God's love with someone who needs it."
3. **Conclusion: Reinforce, Inspire, and Call Back to Introduction**
   - Summarize your main points, call the audience to action, and end with a powerful closing statement. Make sure to connect back to your introduction to create a full-circle moment that reinforces your main message.
   - **Example:** "While we can feel as if the waves of life are crashing down, we need to remember that God's gift of salvation is like an anchor that keeps us steady in life's storms. Let's hold on to that promise, let it guide us, and share it with the world around us. Salvation is not just a word—it's a promise from God, a gift that is always there for us."

Sample Speeches: Persuasion and Sermonettes

These sample outlines are here to help you understand how to structure your speech or sermonette. The first is written word-for-word and is called a transcript. It's important to write a transcript to get all of your thoughts and arguments down. You should not speak using a one. Rather, you would use the second sample outline, which is called an extemporaneous outline. Remember, these are just examples to give you ideas—your speech should reflect your own thoughts, experiences, and message about "The Gift of Salvation."

Transcript Speech Sample (5-10 Minutes)

Title: "God's Gift of Salvation is a Bridge"

Introduction: "Good afternoon, my name is James, and today I want to share with you how God's gift of salvation is like a bridge that helps us cross over troubled waters. Imagine you are on one side of a raging river. The water is rushing, and there's no way to cross. You feel stuck. But then, someone comes and builds a bridge. Suddenly, you have a way to get to the other side safely. That's what salvation is like—it's the bridge that connects us to God and helps us get through life's challenges."

Body:

Point 1: "First, let's talk about what salvation means. Salvation means being saved by God's grace. It's like being rescued from a dangerous situation and brought to safety. In the Bible, John 3:16 tells us, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' This verse shows us that God's love is the bridge that connects us to Him, giving us eternal life.

Sample Speeches: Persuasion and Sermonettes

Title: "God's Gift of Salvation is a Bridge" Continued

Point 2: Now, I want to share a personal story that helps me understand this idea of salvation as a bridge. When I was younger, I struggled with fear of failing, especially at school. I was always worried about not being good enough, and it felt like I was stuck on one side of a raging river. But then, I read Isaiah 41:10, which says, 'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' This verse reminded me that God is with me, helping me cross over my fears. It felt like God had built a bridge just for me, so I could safely get to the other side where I felt His love and peace.

Point 3: And it's not just for me. Salvation is for everyone. In Acts 16:31, it says, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.' This promise is like a bridge built for every person. But a bridge isn't just meant to be seen; it's meant to be crossed. So how can we cross that bridge in our daily lives? By praying, reading God's Word, and sharing His love with others. When we do these things, we are crossing the bridge and getting closer to God.

Point 4 (Call to Action): Now, I want to challenge you to think about what 'troubled waters' you might be facing. Maybe it's fear, like I had. Maybe it's feeling alone, or maybe it's uncertainty about the future. Think about how you can use God's Word and salvation as a bridge to get through. I encourage you to take one step this week to cross that bridge—whether it's by reading a verse every morning to remind yourself of God's promises or by helping someone else find their way to the bridge."

Conclusion: "Just as I mentioned at the beginning, God's salvation is like a bridge that helps us cross over troubled waters. Remember John 3:16 and Isaiah 41:10, and hold on to these promises. Let's all use that bridge, trust in His Word, and help others find it too. Salvation is not just a word—it's a promise from God, a gift that is always there for us. Let's share that gift and walk across the bridge together. Thank you."

Sample Speeches: Persuasion and Sermonettes

Be sure to use your speaking outline when you practice your speech. The bullet points are to remind you of what you want to say. You can fully write out quotes and Bible verses to make sure you get them correct when speaking. Compare the prior outline to this one to see how the transcript has been reduced down to the speaking outline.

Extemporaneous Speaking Outline for Ages: For Delivery (5-10 Minutes)

1. **Introduction:**
   - Introduce yourself and the topic.
   - Hook: Salvation as a bridge over troubled waters.
   - Ask the audience to imagine feeling stuck and needing a way out.
2. **Body:**
   - **Point 1: What is Salvation?**
     - Define salvation as being saved by God's grace.
     - Use John 3:16 to illustrate God's love as a bridge.
   - **Point 2: Personal Testimony**
     - Share a personal experience about fear and overcoming it through Isaiah 41:10.
     - Explain how this experience felt like crossing a bridge to safety.
   - **Point 3: Salvation for Everyone**
     - Reference Acts 16:31 about salvation being available to all.
     - Discuss how to "cross the bridge" through prayer, Bible reading, and helping others.
   - **Point 4: Call to Action**
     - Encourage the audience to identify their "troubled waters."
     - Suggest practical steps to "cross the bridge" of salvation.
3. **Conclusion:**
   - Call back to the introduction (the bridge metaphor).
   - Reinforce key Bible verses.
   - Closing statement: Encourage sharing God's gift and walking the bridge together.

General Tips for Any Speaking Category

1. Practice Out Loud

- The more you practice out loud, the more comfortable you'll feel when it's time to speak. Say your speech, story, or explanation in front of a mirror, with friends, or family members.

2. Use Your Voice Effectively

- Change the speed, volume, and tone of your voice to keep your audience interested. Speak slowly when sharing something important, and a little louder when you want to show excitement or make a point.

3. Make Eye Contact

- Look at your audience while you speak. If you feel nervous, try looking at different people in the room, or choose one friendly face to focus on.

4. Use Body Language

- Your hands, face, and body can help tell your story or make your message stronger. Use hand gestures to emphasize key points and smile or show emotion when it fits your speech.

5. Take Deep Breaths

- It's normal to feel nervous before speaking. Taking slow, deep breaths before you begin and during your speech can help calm your nerves and keep your voice steady.

6. Speak Clearly and at a Steady Pace

- Speak clearly so that everyone can understand you. Try not to rush—go at a steady pace so your audience can follow along with what you're saying.

General Tips: Continued

7. **Be Yourself**
    - Your speech or presentation should reflect who you are. Don't be afraid to share personal stories, use humor, or speak in a way that feels natural to you.

8. **Be Prepared for Mistakes**
    - It's okay if you forget a word or stumble over a sentence—everyone makes mistakes! Just take a breath and keep going. Your audience won't mind, and they'll be rooting for you.

9. **Engage with the Audience**
    - Ask a question, tell a story, or use an example to help the audience connect with what you're saying. The more you involve them, the more they'll be interested in your message.

10. **Start and End Strong**
    - Begin with something that grabs attention, like a powerful statement or question. End by repeating your main message or giving a clear call to action to leave a lasting impression.

11. **Use Visual Aids (If Applicable)**
    - If you're using artwork or props, practice showing them to the audience while you speak. Make sure everyone can see what you're sharing, and explain why it's important to your message.

12. **Stay Positive and Have Fun**
    - Remember, this is your chance to share something important! Stay positive and focus on enjoying the experience. The more fun you have, the more your audience will enjoy listening to you.

GET READY TO SHARE
YOUR FAITH
WITH THE WORLD!

Speak Jesus
WORKBOOK
Central California Conference