

Where is God in My Work? Developing a Passion Talk

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&
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What is a Passion Talk?

1. A concise talk (approx. 15 mins) that draws from your work, research or study setting
2. Must be about your field of work or research - i.e. can't be about something you don't know much about!
3. Discussion on your professional area and how it relates to your faith
4. Occurs among your community of professional peers

Why Create a Passion Talk?

1. Helps Christians better connect their faith with their vocation
2. Provides a comfortable non-threatening platform for connecting evangelism among non-believing colleagues
3. Helps Christians integrate the various aspects of life particularly removing the artificial boundaries between secular (profession) and sacred (church).

At the end of this workshop, you will be equipped to write or speak an abstract of a potential passion talk!

I. Elements of a Passion Talk: What elements did you notice during the demo or in previous examples of a passion talk? What makes a passion talk a passion talk (and distinct from a research talk, testimony, or preaching/teaching)? How did you notice the speaker connect their work and faith? **5 min**

II. Brainstorming Your Passion Talk

General brainstorming questions

1. What do you do?
2. Why did you decide to do it?
3. What is something you've learned recently that is exciting/has given you joy?
4. What is something you've recently struggled with?
5. If you were speaking to a lay person about your profession, what is the one thing you'd like them to know?
6. Who are the people you've connected with that have impacted your views on your work?

Bringing God into it

1. Where do you see God in your work?

2. What are some big questions you have about the connection between God and your work?
3. What is something you've learned about God through your work recently?
4. What is the truth that you see in this?
5. Is there a scripture or biblical principle that comes to mind when you think of this incident/thing?
6. Is there anything about your work that conflicts with scripture?

Circle and respond to the brainstorming questions that resonated with you.

10 min

III: Reflection and Feedback

From your brainstormed ideas, identify the elements of a passion talk within them. Use the following guide for help. After you are finished, take turns asking questions and receiving feedback. **25 min**

HOOK: What is the subject of your research or studies? (Make us interested! Connect us with your subject!)

CONTEXT: Why are you conducting your research? What are the reasons behind the subject of your brainstorm? Is there anything we need to know in order to understand your argument?

OBJECTIVES/ARGUMENT: What is your approach or argument? What are you trying to communicate about the intersection of your work and faith?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why should we care?

Questions for feedback portion: What is interesting about the other person's idea? What is unclear?

IV: Putting it all Together

10 min

Take turns sharing the results of the exercises above with your partner. What is the core message of your passion talk?

V: Visuals and Illustrations

Brainstorm images, scriptures, quotes, or other illustrations that would pair well with particular sections of your passion talk. What visuals do you need to support or enhance your argument?

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Date: 13 January 2018

Event organizer: 10th Annual Boston Faculty Fellowship Retreat

Event topic: Boston Faculty Retreat: "What's Your God-Given Passion?"

Participants: Faculty from Boston universities, including Harvard, MIT, Boston University, Tufts, Brandeis

Place: Toah Nipi Retreat Center, New Hampshire

Language: English