

21 Things Every Youth Leader Should Know

1. Get a [diary](#) and always be [on time](#)
2. Return [phone calls](#)
3. Know your Senior Pastors/Churches [vision](#) and make it [your own](#)
4. Be with your [kids](#) and always try and take [someone with you](#)
5. [Serve](#) in other ways in your [Church](#)
6. Be active in building relationships and serving the [kids church](#) , [kids](#) and the [leaders](#)
7. Invite [senior leaders](#) to youth to [speak or participate](#)
8. Be a [disciple yourself](#) - serve, tithe, worship, read, pray, honor
9. Don't just know you should [empower and release](#) actually plan for it and [do it](#)
10. To be a [learner](#) is essential and you must [listen, read, watch](#)
11. Join with other [youth ministries](#)
12. Make [Church](#) a priority for [you, leaders, kids](#)
13. Book mark [your Bible](#) for [key verses](#)
14. Have a [central message](#) to your life and ministry
15. Get a [hobby](#) and don't [burn out](#)
16. Confront [sin](#)
17. Learn about [disappointment](#)
18. Know your [chaplain](#) & [principals](#) first and last names
19. Communicate with [parents](#)
20. Don't be afraid to [change](#) your [program or where you sit](#)
21. Don't [overuse](#) or [underuse](#) technology

Creative & Worship

a. Reason/why – what is the purpose of having a worship team?

The purpose statement and vision of a worship team must be clearly laid out. This should go without saying, but the purpose of the team must be first and foremost about the glory of God. The second purpose of the group is to provide the church with a biblical avenue, for an outward expression, to the revelation, of the glory of God. It is as simple as serving God and serving others. A mission or a purpose statement doesn't have to be anything elaborate. e.g. "All areas of Worship and Creative Arts work together to build one united team with one purpose: To glorify God through the creative arts."

b. Personal preparation

Each member of a worship team should take seriously the call that God has on their lives and the place that has in serving the body of Christ. They should desire to first be worshippers of our mighty God, servants of His house, and to be faithful with the gifts that God has placed in their hands.

1. Spiritual preparation:

Our attitude in preparing to lead in worship should be to please God and serve the people. A worship team member should be living a life of worship. Mark 12:30 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." In order to praise and worship God for who He is, we must know Him; His nature, His desires, His plans, His heart. It is impossible to praise and worship a God you do not know personally. The more we know God the more we will want to worship Him and the deeper our worship will take us.

2. Practical preparation:

Each member of the team should be constantly working on improving their gift. It is so easy to make it through an audition and think that is all you have to do. As well as regular rehearsals as a group, encourage each individual to be rehearsing in their own time preferably with lessons. There is always room to grow.

c. Submitting to leadership – characteristics to look for in team members:

We are all part of the body of Christ, and each of us plays a vital role within the local church. Respect for authority, and submission to the leader is a key quality we look for in our team. A worship team needs a leader/s who to make the final decisions. They are accountable to God and to their church leaders. Members of a worship team should be teachable and able to submit to authority. Just because someone has a music degree doesn't mean they understand how music works in worship. Although it's important that the music is of a sufficient standard to work, among the musicians humility must be a higher priority than musical excellence.

d. Selecting and equipping your team – four key points to consider when choosing team members:

Choosing worship team members is a critical yet often hurried step, especially in the early stages of building our ministry. Often at times just for the sake of building a group, we will rush into this process and we will end up getting ourselves in a tough situation. That is why it is so important to have a plan in place

for creating a band and choosing new vocalists and musicians.

1. Pray, pray, and pray some more. When choosing group members your #1 priority should be to pray. Pray that God would lead you to the right people for the positions that are needed.
2. Choose heart over skill. The key qualification for being part of the group must be more spiritual rather than practical. The group must be made up of worshipers. In worship there is no room for performance. The goal is to glorify God not themselves. A person that is considering being a part of this ministry must have a passion for glorifying God. Are they committed to the church? Do they regularly attend?
3. Auditions are the best way for leaders to gauge one's skill level and to know where they will best fit within the team. Things to look for:
Vocalists:
 - a. Proficient technique
 - b. Ability to harmonize/hold parts
 - c. Confident stage presence
 - d. Vocal control
 - e. Some ability to read musicMusicians:
 - f. Read/play chord structures/rhythms
 - g. Good ensemble techniques
 - h. Play well with other musicians
 - i. Musically versatile
 - j. Confident stage presence
4. Resourcing e.g. handbooks/welcome packs/CDs/programs/lyrics/charts

e. How to develop relationships and build a team of 'eclectic creative' people

Building relationships with each member of your group is an extremely important part of building an effective worship team. How do you cultivate these close relationships? Well-structured rehearsals can be so important in building relationships as well as spending time with your team outside of rehearsals. Hint: try calling them instead of texting for a start – keeping open lines of communication.

Guiding the members of the group to grow spiritually, and helping them fall deeper in love with God, is another key ingredient to building an effective worship team. Encourage them to daily have a time of 1. personal prayer 2. personal praise and worship and 3. bible study. If your whole team is applying these three disciplines on a daily basis, it will make your job as a worship leader much more enjoyable, and the team more effective.

f. Practicalities- running effective rehearsal times/selecting songs/on stage behaviour

Stage Presence – dress appropriately at all times when serving in the church (especially those who are on the platform). We desire to bring glory to God and not draw attention to ourselves through our actions or our appearance.

Rehearsals/team building – a high standard of reliability and punctuality is required for any member of a worship team. An effective rehearsal should include a time of team/relationship building, prayer/worship/devotion as well as practical skill development/rehearsal time.

Selecting songs – should be a combined effort between worship leaders and church leaders. Making sure the song is relevant for the people.

f. Technical difficulties

An efficient worship team will always work closely along side it's production team, it is important to have production personnel who understands how the equipment is properly operated as we are generally working with complex and expensive equipment. It is also worth while to be training your worship team up in the appropriate use of the equipment to minimise technical difficulties arising.

Schools Ministry

A schools ministry is one of the most important aspects of any youth ministry. The value, significance and impact that you can have by being involved in your local high schools really can't be measured.

There is no other place on earth, where you will, five days a week, forty weeks a year, find as many young people in one place. The more young people you can meet, interact and connect with, the more young people will come to your youth ministry and ultimately enter the Kingdom of God. We need to be proactive in reaching out, we can't just hope kids come to us; we must meet them where they are at.

What are the Steps?

1. Prayer

Nothing happens without prayer. Start praying for God ideas, programs and strategies. Pray for teams of people and pray that God will open all the right doors for you.

2. Preparation

Start writing down proposals of what you want to do in the school. Think first about the needs of the school- your program or idea needs to add to the school environment. Your program needs to have a purpose, get it all down on paper.

3. Getting into the School

The Chaplain should be your no. 1 go-to person. They are the Christian representatives in the school and they will be the easiest person for you to work with. Talk to them about your ideas, ask them what the school needs and continue formulating you plan with them that you can submit to the school.

4. Build a team

Find committed people who will help you run the program. Choose wisely and specifically. Schools are a fragile environment and you need stable people to help you. The wrong people can do far more damage than good.

5. Starting your Program

The first time you start your program, turn up early and honour and respect every staff member you interact with. The school is always right, do anything they ask you to do/stop/change. Make sure you do what you said you would do. Once you are in

the school it is not your time to preach- stick to the program you said you would run. It is now about building relationships with the school and the students. You want your program to be an ongoing thing, rather than a once off. The longer you develop relationships, the more open and accessible schools will become.

Possible Program Options:

You should always tailor each program to the needs of the school but here are some generic programs that have successfully run for years in youth ministries.

Breakfast Club:

Providing food for kids before school starts, for kids who perhaps don't eat at home.

Lunchtime Program:

Can be anything from running youth games and competitions to creating a "lounge" type atmosphere where kids just come and hang out.

ExoDay/BBQ:

Run in conjunction with a Youth Alive event or a big youth night, use the BBQ to connect and engage with kids and promote your upcoming event (only if its okay with the school)

Personal Development Programs: Strength and Shine

These programs are being run in schools across the state. They look at issues of self worth and value and start digging deeper into the lives of young people. If you are interested in these programs contact Anna Gregory: Tagregory@netspace.net.au

Discipleship & New Christian Follow-Up

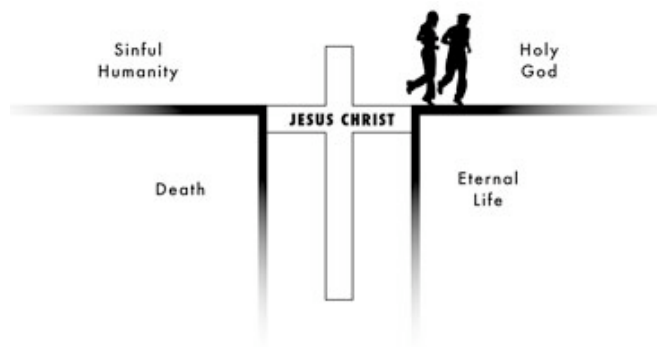
Why get saved?

John 3:16-17 - "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him."

What has Jesus saved us from? Too many Christians try to preach about getting saved without telling them what they are saved from!

Matt 13:49-50, Rev 14:10-11, Rev 20:14-15.

It's Christ that bridges the gap from death to life



The Power of salvation is in the gospel!

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes..."

The message is perfect, only we can stuff it up.

Why follow up and Discipleship?

Matthew 28:18-20 "Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Discipleship takes someone from a decision to follow Jesus to a relationship with Him.

Every Christian has been called to be discipled and disciple others. New Christian courses and Small groups are vital for discipleship!

Preparation

1. Prepare leaders that are welcoming, friendly and non-threatening- that know basic scriptures that back up why having a relationship with Jesus is the best decision of their life. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, 2 Peter 3:9, Romans 10:10 etc)
2. Make new Christian packs. These contain a New Testament bible, reading plan or devotional, a diagram and key verses explaining the decision they have made, contact details form to be used for follow up. Girls follow up girls and vice versa!

How do you first start?

1. After response, confirm decision, explain the Gospel again, pray with them.
Note: Take time to listen to any questions they may have!
2. Make contact again within 12-24 hour max to start follow up process.
3. Make invitation via phone call. Invite them to be involved with your Youth, Small group, or New Christian course.
Note: Be prepared for different responses. Some won't respond well (parents not letting them, going to different churches etc). Prepare as best you can for different reactions, don't lose heart!
4. Make contact with them at their first night of Youth, introduce them to youth their own age. Build relationship! Make them feel special! A good program will keep them interested for a short while but relationships are what last.

Running an effective Small Group. Fun, Family, Fed (Spiritually) and Fight.

Every small group leader needs to have these four things in mind:

Fun! Young people won't come without the fun factor in a small group!

Family! Everything you do look through the eyes of a parent. Build a good relationship with the parents of your young people.

Fed! Small groups are the best opportunity to spiritually feed your young people. In a safe smaller environment they can ask questions and discuss topics with their spiritual leader. Building these relationships and guiding them is true discipleship!

Fight! As a small group leader you need to fight for your young people! God has placed them in your care and you will be held accountable for them. See it as the privilege it is... Pray for them!

Make your young people aware that as their leader you have a duty of care to follow and not all information they share with you will be kept between you. You have a legal obligation to make your leader aware of any situation that may put the young person in danger.

Resource:

Your Pastors and Leaders! Small group and leaders guides

www.lifechurch.tv/resources

Event Management & Promotion

The following points are crucial in ensuring the running of successful events within your Youth Ministry. Some of them may be applicable, and others not, depending on the size of your event that you are running.

- **Goals and Vision ★**

It is important to have achievable goals for your event, as well as an inspiring vision for your team to grab a hold of and run with. When goals are achieved it will build great momentum within your youth ministry, and will also motivate your team.

- **Develop a plan ★**

Be wise about when you plan to hold your event. Keep in mind such things as:

- The school terms- don't put your event the week before school holidays as this will restrict follow up opportunities
- Uni & college exams (leaders)
- Other major church events
- Other secular events (ie music festivals)
- A Plan B

Note: *always* submit this plan to your Senior Pastor

- **Budget ★**

Have one, use it & be wise!

- **Team/Volunteers Gathered ★**

Not only do you need to *gather* your team, it is crucial to assign each person roles and responsibilities. Communicate frequently with each team member (this doesn't mean sending them a text message)

- **Promotion/Marketing ★**

Keep in mind:

- The more people that know about your event, the more likely people will be to show up
- Make sure your promotion is eye catching- youth today are very easily influenced by marketing and we need to be clever about how we promote our events
- Develop a creative brief & strategise a promotion plan
- Utilise already established social networking sites for promotion- Facebook/Twitter/MySpace etc.
- However, don't leave it up to these mediums for communication- text messages, phone calls and personal word of mouth invitation always work best
- Make sure your website is up to date
- Don't leave it to the last minute- promotion for large events should be developed, finalised, printed & sent out at least 6-8 weeks before

- **Venue booked ★**

- **Event Manual**

An event manual helps each team member in understanding their role and should list key responsibilities and brief job descriptions, checklists, vision, event timeline & budget.

- **Transport**

If your event is at a venue different to where you normally hold your weekly Youth program, it will be important to organize transport between your leaders, or you may need to hire buses (make sure this is within your budget)

- **Schools**

Communicate with schools in your area, promote events & incorporate using them in any way you can. Don't forget, most schools have chaplains. Build a great relationship with them as they are your doorway into the school

- **Canteen**

- **Music/AV ★**

- **Security ★**

In organizing large events, keep in mind your leader to child ratio. If you are organizing a specific outreach event, it is crucial that you bring in either professional security personnel or arrange some parents or young adults within your Church to fulfill this role.

- **Risk assessment/OHS reporting**

See pg. 7.

- **Setup/Packup ★**

Develop a 'better than you found it' culture within your leadership team and youth ministry. Youth ministries are infamous for destroying property- we need to change this.

- **Local Authorities Notified**

If you are holding a large event, where you are expecting to have large numbers of people on site, or loud noise coming from the venue, it is definitely worth notifying the local Police and Fire Authorities. Develop a great relationship with them and they will be a great support to your youth ministry.

- **New Christians Follow Up ★**

See pg. 8

- **Event Debrief**

It is important out of an event to run through with your team what worked, what didn't, improvements for next time, as well as celebrating the 'wins' out of your event- new people, new Christians, organization and hard work of your team etc. **Always** remember to thank your volunteers – a card is not expensive and shows you appreciate them. If they know this, then they will often be more likely to help you next time.

- **Guests**

Inviting guest artists or speakers to your event is a great way of building momentum up to your event, and drawing in numbers. Whether it be a local or interstate guest, ensure you ask and prepare them well in advance. Assign someone to oversee this area of your event to ensure that your guest' flights, accommodation, food and basic requirements are taken care of. And remember to honour them!

- **Prayer ★**

In all and through all, pray. Pray as a team and pray specifically over each area of your event.

Possible Resources/Links:

Laura - laura.bienefelt@youthalivetas.com.au

Liane - liane.psn@hotmail.com

<http://www.docstoc.com/docs/7493312/Incident-and-Safety-Hazard-Report-Template>

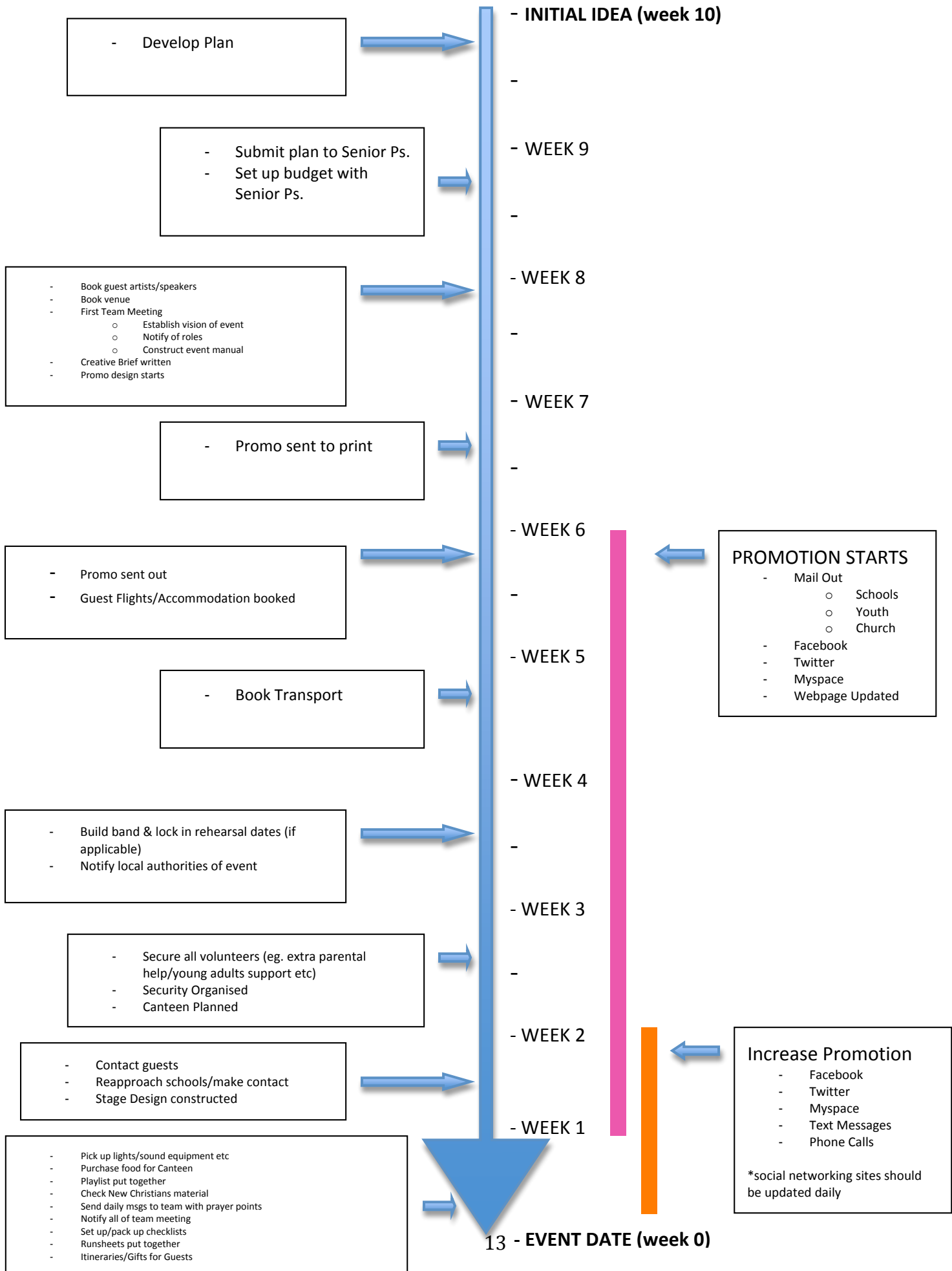
<http://www.smartevents.com.au/public/planning.asp>

<http://www.timelinemaker.com>

<http://www.businessformtemplate.com/>

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/intguide/sp/spgrants.htm> - GRANT INFORMATION

Sample Event Timeline: 10 weeks



Preaching & Public Speaking

- a. Not every leader has to be a public speaker – but every leader has to be able to communicate
- b. Identify a gift or calling, but grow in this art/skill
- c. 5 W's – who, what, when, where, how
- d. Always consider the audience
- e. Never, ever say "I didn't prepare for this" - there are no excuses for this in leadership.
- f. You must use the Bible. Movie quotes/funny stories are all fine but never neglect his word.
- g. Practice, Practice, Practice
- h. You must honour peoples time as well as honour the Holy Spirit.
- i. Know your material. It must also know you.
- j. Use personal illustrations
- k. Get a folder or file of anecdotes
- l. Know the room
- m. Just relax . Realize that people want you to succeed.
- n. Don't apologise for any nervousness or problems – the audience probably never noticed it.
- o. Concentrate on the message – not the medium
- p. Put your hand up for every opportunity
- q. Ask for feedback from the right people

