

10 TIPS FOR YOUR WYLDLIFE CLUB TALK

1. Short. Short. Short. Just like middle schoolers (MSers). Attention spans are short & Snapchat is calling, so pack in the punch between 5-8 minutes so their minds don't start drifting. Seasoned and engaging speakers can go longer – but shouldn't unless necessary.
2. Be clear. You have LOTS to share because you are wise, but MSers can only take in so much of your wisdom. Use only ONE big main point. One awesome home run is better than three singles...
3. Know your audience. MSers can't relate to your life in HS, in college, on the moon - whatever. Use stories from your time in MS or ones everyone can relate to (i.e. embarrassing, family, friends).
4. Visuals are your best friends. Pictures, movies, water to wine — MSers are still primarily concrete thinkers and can't always grasp metaphors, so the more visuals you can give them the better they will understand the story. (However, don't stretch it – nothing is worse than a visual that clouds the main point.)
5. BTB (Bring that Bible) - ALWAYS read from your bible - no phones, Ipads, Galaxy 7s- show them that you have a bible and you read from it!
6. Talk it out. Break up the passage while you read to explain what's going on in the story in their terms. This will help reengage them when their minds start to wander to, "Lost me at living water..." It's easy to get lost 7 verses deep with 10 more to go. You've been there.
7. Write it out. All the words. Practice. Seriously. THIS IS THE GOSPEL, PEOPLE! The Good News deserves your time and practice and care. Write, practice, revise. repeat.
8. Engage them. MSers will talk during your talk, (it's not you, it's them) so might as well talk back! Ask reflective questions like, "Have you ever ___?" or, "Think of a time when___," instead of using simple response questions like, "Who here has ___?" Have them help with a demonstration or act out a scene.
9. Be choosy. Use the clearest gospel stories to share with MSers. Some stories that work for YL might be too nuanced for WL. It's OK to draw from the same stories each year. Put a new spin on an old story, read from a different person's perspective, be creative with a visual.
10. LOL with them. Funny stories, videos, pictures will help break down walls and build memories. You don't have to be funny, but you should be fun - this is WyldLife after all!