

Called to Speak Masterclass Handout

With Linda Evans Shepherd

Speak with Power, Purpose, and Presence

Course Goal: By the end of this four-session masterclass, you will develop a clear message, structure a compelling talk, strengthen your delivery skills, and present a confident 5-minute speech.

SESSION 1: Finding Your Message

Key Topics

- Discover your speaking motivation and calling
- Identify your audience
- Develop your core message
- Build a story journal
- Create an elevator pitch
- Choose one story for your 5-minute talk

Key Scripture / Principle

Romans 10:14–15 and Philippians 2:3–4

Practice Assignment

1. Write a 2–3 sentence testimony/message

2. List 5 signature stories from your life

3. Choose ONE story for your 5-minute talk

4. Identify the audience you feel called to serve

Speaker Notes

- Your audience is not a crowd—it is a person with a problem.

- One message clearly delivered is more powerful than many scattered ideas.

SESSION 2: Shaping Your Talk

Key Topics

- How to structure a speech
- Hooks, points, stories, and wrap-ups
- Memorization techniques
- Visual memory anchors
- Storytelling with transformation
- Using humor effectively
- PowerPoint tips

Key Scripture / Principle

Focus on transformation, hope, and clarity

Practice Assignment

5. Write your opening hook

6. Outline your 5-minute talk

7. Identify your main takeaway

8. Practice your story using the Struggle → Shift → Step format

Speaker Notes

- Avoid trauma dumping. Share the lesson, not just the wound.
- Use the 20/80 rule: 20% struggle, 80% what God did next.

SESSION 3: Delivering Your Message with Confidence

Key Topics

- Stage presence in person and online
- Microphone basics
- Opening and ending strong
- Avoiding common speaking mistakes
- Book table strategy
- Working with meeting planners
- Speaker contracts and needs sheets

Key Scripture / Principle

Invite God into your speaking journey

Practice Assignment

9. Practice eye contact and pacing
10. Rehearse your opening and closing
11. Prepare your speaker bio and needs sheet
12. Review your outline and simplify where needed

Speaker Notes

- Do not disappear into your notes.
- People remember clarity and connection more than perfection.

SESSION 4: Stand Strong and Speak with Authority

Key Topics

- Presenting your 5-minute talk
- Speaking under pressure
- Trusting God with the outcome
- Growing as a speaker through practice

Key Scripture / Principle

Pressure doesn't disqualify you—it reveals what's in you.

Practice Assignment

13. Deliver your 5-minute presentation
14. Focus on one message, one story, and one clear takeaway
15. Encourage and pray for fellow speakers

Speaker Notes

- Your voice matters.
- God can use your story to change someone's life.

Final Encouragement

Speaking is not about performance—it is about connection, truth, and obedience. As you continue developing your message, remember that God often uses willing voices more than polished ones. Keep showing up. Keep speaking. Keep trusting Him.